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FOOTBALL FOCUS ON LIONESS SARAH LOVETT

VPL TOP SIX SERIES WEEK 3

MUNRO BOWS OUT FROM CANNONS

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goal! Weekly

Season 4: Issue 30 Monday 15th September 2008

Supporting all colours and reporting in black and white

MELBOURNE'S MAGIC KNIGHTS!

FOXTEL CUP GRAND FINAL 2008
ALTONA MAGIC V MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER KO 3PM
BOB JANE STADIUM

Photo by Daniel Flis

PLUS▷ ALL THE WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS, BOO, KATSA, TSIGAN, TARTAN TALK, SOCCER HOTLINES & HEAPS MORE!

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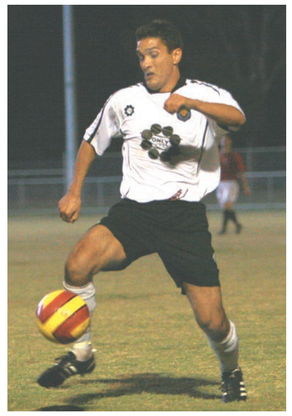
GOLD MEDAL COUNTDOWN

Victorian Football's Night of Nights

Henry Fa' Arodo
(Altona Magic)



Pablo Cardozo
(Richmond Eagles)

Cindy Dussoye
(Ashburton)

Victorian football's night of nights comes to town on Tuesday 16th September when the Gold Medal for the Foxtel Cup Men's and Women's competitions will be awarded at the Peninsula Room, Docklands.

The Best and Fairest and Top Scorer awards for the State and Provisional competitions will also we presented on the night as well

Contenders for this year's Gold Medals will certainly include the likes of Jeffrey Fleming (Green Gully), Pablo Cardozo (Richmond), Graham Hockless (Heidelberg United) and Henry Fa' Arodo (Altona Magic).

Flemming is a New Zealand international whose consistency in midfield was a driving force behind Gully's romp to the Minor Premiership.

Cardozo could make it a clean sweep on the night with the Top Scorers already in the bag. The former NSL star banged in 20 goals in 20 games this season as the Richmond Eagles reached the finals for the first time in its 54 year history.

Hockless has been instrumental in midfield for Heidelberg United all season and may yet find itself on the winner's podium. The unassuming English playmaker has built a reputation as one of the best and most reliable passers of the ball in the Foxtel Cup. Definitely a player's player who can unleash a cracking shot or two from outside the box when his game is on song.

With a Grand Final appearance already booked, **Fa'arado** is also in line to take top honours for 2008 and could well get the party started early for the Magic camp. The speedy Solomon Island international has chipped in with 7 goals and relentlessly tormented defences with his bursting runs and unselfish play.In the WPL the frontrunners will most likely feature **Belinda Pannella** (Heidelberg United), **Daniella Digiammarco** (Box Hill), **Cindy Dussoye** (Ashburton).

All have put in sterling performances for their clubs, and no doubt the voting will be as tight as ever as another series of players join the long list of distinguished alumni from season's past on the winners list.

Make sure you get your copy of Goal! Weekly next Monday and find out who took out all the top honours.

GOLD MEDAL
PAST WINNERS

2007 Terry Antoniadis
Western Suburbs
27 votes
2006 Sash Becvinovski
Altona Magic 27
2005 Anthony Magnacca
Preston Lions 35
2004 Doug Mladenovic
& Ricky Diaco Altona Magic
Frankston Pines 15
2003 Chris Emsovski
Preston Lions 33
2002 Jim Kourtis
Bentleigh Greens 17
2001 Chris Emsovski
& Zoran Todorovski
Preston Lions
Altona Magic 21
2000 Damian Vojtek
St Albans Saints 21
1999 George Jolevski
Melbourne Raiders 26
1998 George Jolevski
Thomastown Zebras 31
1997 George Jolevski
Altona Magic 33

Graham Hockless
(Heidelberg United)

Jeffrey Fleming
(Green Gully)

Daniella Digiammarco
(Box Hill Inter)

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SARAH LOVETT

PRESTON LIONS FC

FULL NAME: Sarah Lee Lovett – Abela
BIRTHPLACE: Melbourne Victoria
BIRTH DATE: 13/11/1986
HEIGHT: 5''8
WEIGHT: 62kgs
MARRIED: No
CAR: No, in the process of buying a motor bike or scooter
OCCUPATION OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL: Student/ Recreation officer at Wintringham Hostel
NICKNAME: Lovett
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Port Melbourne Sharks/ South Melbourne
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Under 16's & 18's Victorian state teams
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: David Beckham
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Thierry Henry
FAVOURITE FOXTEL CUP PLAYER: Sapazovski, Johnny
FAVOURITE WPL PLAYER: Sarah Sumner and Nablia Saliba(GK)
FAVOURITE FORMER MATILDA: Cheryl Salisbury
FAVOURITE CURRENT MATILDA: Sarah Walsh
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Mark Viduka
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Harry Kewell
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Playing in the Finals for the first time this year. This is what we play for.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Melbourne Victory Grand Final win
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Hat trick I scored against South earlier this year
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Wednesday night bus trip to play Gippsland this year. Andy and Victor know what I am talking about!!!
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Nothing, everything happens for a reason
WORST INJURY: Torn ligaments in my left ankle
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Tough question, probably Box Hill
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Box Hill stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: Listen to music
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Lots of Carbohydrates which means pasta.
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Leadership and Speed
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Consistency
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Carlton Football Club and Manchester United
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: AFL
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Michael Jordan
FAVOURITE FOODS: Pizza
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Heath Ledger
HOBBIES: Watching movies, playing sports and chilling with friends
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Phillip Island
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Local Pubs, any place I can get in with thongs on.
IDEAL DATE: Anywhere
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Dexter and Rush
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Aussies hits and anything that gets me in to the mood.
FAVOURITE FILM: Coach Carter, Remember the Titans and Freedom Writers
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Manchester United shirt I brought in London
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: What rumours???
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My Mum, Siblings and Victor.
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Not being able to go out on Saturday nights
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Just to play well for my club
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Michael Jordan
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S FOXTEL CUP: Heidelberg Untied
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S WPL: Preston Lions Women's Soccer Club

Photo by John Punshon

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MUNRO BOWS OUT

Johnny A Makes Return With Cannons

Back in the big time: Foxtel Cup championship winning coach Johnny Anastasiadis replaces Stuart Munro at Jack Edwards Reserve

Stuart Munro is no longer the coach of Oakleigh Cannons. The former Glasgow Rangers star has decided to end his tenure at Jack Edwards Reserve after nearly four seasons in charge and former South Melbourne championship winning coach, John Anastasiadis, has been appointed as his replacement for the 2009 season.

Munro was also previously at South Melbourne before taking up the position with the Cannons.

The departure was amicable with both Munro and club feeling it was time for a change, bringing the total number of coaching changes in this year's Foxtel Cup to eight.

Speaking exclusively to GW, Munro was philosophical asking the decision, "About a month before the end of the season I felt that I probably had been at one place too long and felt that the time was right to severe the ties and move on. I had a couple of meetings with the club towards the end of the season and we both spoke about things – which were very positive – and we felt that especially with Premier League football it probably wouldn't be such a bad idea to freshen things up a little. "

Asked if he intended to coach next year, Munro replied "I'm not sure at this stage. Come December and January I'll probably miss the whole involvement side of things and be desperate to get back into it, but at the moment I don't have anything lined up in the pipeline. I do love coaching more than anything else and come nearer the time I might well be tempted again. But there's no animosity or hard feelings between myself and the club, everything was done very amicably and I'd like to wish the club all the very best. I feel fairly content with what I did in the time I was there. We were up near the top most of the time, but this year was very difficult, and the fact we struggled to score goals was our only downfall. I thought we played quite well in the second half of the year, but we couldn't score goals to give us the wins that we needed to finish higher up on the ladder. Overall, however we were always looking forward and not looking over our shoulder. I think over the next couple of years I do believe Oakleigh will make a grand final, but the main thing is they try to continue to be one of the main three or four teams in the league. "

Asked about his thoughts on the Foxtel Cup, "I think most people that run these clubs are very emotionally attached to the clubs and if they don't get the desired results it's a case of that same old adage; that the coach will probably be the first one to get it. Whether that's right or wrong sometimes I'm not really sure, but maybe some of the clubs should try and stick with the coach a little bit longer and maybe try and build something, rather than keep changing coaches whenever there's a black cloud hanging over them hoping that that might pull them out of it."

GW also contacted Anastasiadis and asked him how he felt about returning to coaching, "It's going to be a big challenge. Oakleigh have now become one of the better clubs in the VPL and it's a credit to the committee who have built the club to where they are today. They're definitely one of the frontrunners of the competition these days and I expect to continue the good work that Stuart has done."

Asked if he missed being away from the game he said, "I've been involved in the game for over twenty years and you always miss it when you're away for an extended period of time. I've still been attending games and keeping tabs on everything, but now it's back into the dressing rooms and no doubt the stress levels will rise once again with the full flight of team football."

What does he think he can bring to Jack's Place, "As I said, Stuart has done a fantastic job during the time he was there and I hope to continue to build on that. Obviously I'll be looking to bring some new ideas and different views on how we'll be playing. I'll be looking to strengthening the squad and aim to be up there challenging amongst the frontrunners next year."

Anastasiadis will take charge of his new troops late November when pre-season commences.

Oakleigh Cannons General manager Aki Ionnas was also contacted during the week and said, "We'd like to thank Stuart for all his service to the club over the last four years and Johnny A has been appointed. It's been a successful four years and we're now looking forward to a new chapter in the club's direction."

Asked if the decision had anything to do with the club failing to make the Finals this year, Ionnas replied, "It's got nothing to do with it. We've been very happy with Stuart's contribution to the club and how the team has performed overall, but I believe both parties we're ready for a change."

A couple of well credentialed candidates were on the shortlist to replace Munro, but the club decided on Anastasiadis due to his experience and track record.

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Scoreboard

FOXTEL CUP FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PT
1 Green Gully Cavaliers	26	15	8	3	41	17	+24	**53**
2 Melbourne Knights	26	14	10	2	47	25	+22	**52**
3 Altona Magic	26	13	8	5	44	29	+15	**47**
4 Heidelberg Utd	26	11	9	6	41	30	+11	**42**
5 Richmond	26	11	7	8	57	35	+22	**40**
6 Preston Lions	26	12	3	11	37	46	-9	**39**
7 Oakleigh Cannons	26	10	7	9	28	24	+4	**37**
8 A.I.S	26	10	6	10	41	35	+6	**36**
9 South Melbourne	26	10	4	12	35	32	+3	**34**
10 Coburg Utd	26	9	4	13	29	40	-11	**31**
11 Whittlesea Zebras (R)	26	7	9	10	31	33	-2	**30**
12 Western Suburbs (R)	26	5	7	14	23	42	-19	**22**
13 Fawkner Blues (R)	26	6	3	17	22	59	-37	**21**
14 Frankston Pines (R)	26	4	5	17	19	48	-29	**17**

WHEN DOVES CRY

Administrative Bungle Seals Relegation Fate

DOVETON was relegated from State Three South-East this season because it didn't properly check Football Federation Victoria's website, an administrative error that cost it three points and condemned it to Provisional League ranks in 2009 while saving Brandon Park from the drop.

A remarkable chain of events prior to Doveton's Round 20 home clash with then relegation-threatened Sandringham City was set in train on Friday, 22 August, the day before the game which Sandringham won 6–1.

On that Friday neither Doveton nor Sandringham became aware that Sandy striker Michael Cook was ineligible to play the next day having received a fourth and fifth yellow card for the season in Rounds 18 and 19 against Berwick City and Southern Suburbs respectively.

Sandringham never checked the email sent to it by FFV while the Doves never checked the FFV website properly. Had Doveton looked closely at the Player Suspensions (All Leagues) posting or the 2008 Disciplinary Record – Yellow Cards (Senior Men) posting it would have found that Cook was due to serve a one-match suspension.

Had Doveton registered a protest within 72 hours of the completion of the whitewash the result would have been overturned and a 3–0 win to Doveton been recorded. And those three points would have sent the Doves into the safety zone rather than having to play at home against North Caulfield on Sunday, 7 August needing to win to stay up, a match they lost 4–2.

It also would have condemned Brandon Park to relegation alongside Boroondara Eagles and Endeavour United.

Sandringham was clever enough to allow the 72–hour period to lapse before addressing its error which saw Cook sit out his suspension in the club's 3–1 Round 21 win over championship winner Morwell Pegasus.

It must have informed FFV of its oversight because the federation's updated Player Suspensions (All Leagues) website posting lists Cook as serving his suspension in the Round 21 victory despite initially instructing the club that he miss the Round 20 clash.

FFV can instigate an investigation into irregularities regarding playing ineligible players but it cannot, as a result of such investigation, overturn a result if no protest has been lodged. It can only fine the player and club involved but given that both clubs acted in good faith (perhaps mutual incompetence is more appropriate) then it's not expected that an investigation will be launched.

Doveton has paid a heavy price for its administrative bungle and without wishing to rub salt into its wounds here is the final 2008 Division Three table that should have been.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

STATE SOUTH-EAST THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Morwell Pegasus	**22**	**14**	**4**	**4**	**50**	**27**	**23**	**46**
Heatherton United	22	13	3	6	40	34	6	42
Springvale City	22	10	3	9	29	34	–5	33
Berwick City	22	9	5	8	35	32	3	32
Southern Suburbs	22	10	2	10	35	35	0	32
North Caulfield	22	7	9	6	30	29	1	30
Croydon City Arrows	22	8	5	9	31	24	7	29
Doveton	22	8	5	9	38	47	–9	29
Sandringham City	22	8	4	10	36	37	1	28
Brandon Park	**22**	**7**	**6**	**9**	**33**	**34**	**–1**	**27**
Boroondara Eagles	**22**	**8**	**2**	**12**	**33**	**38**	**–5**	**26**
Endeavour United	**22**	**3**	**6**	**13**	**24**	**43**	**–19**	**15**

FOXTEL FINALS FIXTURES

Week 1
QUALIFYING FINAL
Green Gully 1
Melbourne Knights 1
Knights win 5-6 on pens
(Winner of Qualifying Final advances to Major Semi-Final. Loser proceeds to Minor Semi-Final)

1st ELIMINATION FINAL
Altona Magic 2
Preston Lions 1
(Losers of Elimination Finals are eliminated. Winners proceed to Semi- Finals)

2nd ELIMINATION FINAL
Heidelberg United 2
Richmond Eagles 1
(Losers of Elimination Finals are eliminated. Winners proceed to Semi- Finals)

Week 2
MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
Melbourne Knights 1
Altona Magic 1
Magic win 4-3 on pens
(Winner of Major Semi-Final advances to Grand Final, loser proceeds to Preliminary Final)

MINOR SEMI-FINAL
Green Gully 0
Heidelberg United 2
(Winner of Minor Semi-Final advances to Preliminary Final, loser is eliminated.)

Week 3
Preliminary Final
Heidelberg United 1
Melbourne Knights 2
(Winner of Preliminary Final advances to Grand Final, loser is eliminated)

Week 4
GRAND FINAL
Altona Magic
v
Melbourne Knights
KO 3PM Sun 21 Sep
Bob Jane Stadium

Please check the FFV website for any fixture changes.

goal! Weekly

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

2 - 1

HEIDELBERG UNITED

GRAND KNIGHTS FLIP BERGERS

Spiteri Creates History

The Melbourne Knights have qualified for this season's Foxtel Cup final after a pulsating 2-1 victory over Heidelberg United at Epping Stadium on Sunday evening.

The story of the match goes to veteran Knights striker Joe Spiteri, who scored one and set up the second, to send the Knights into their first Grand Final appearance since their NSL Championship season of 1995/1996, which consisted the likes of Simunic, Tiatto, Pondeljak and remarkably Joe Spiteri.

Heidelberg have been the form team of the finals, having already disposed of Richmond and Green Gully respectably, they went into this game as warm favourites against an injury depleted Knights outfit.

The 'Berger's' came out of the change rooms breathing fire, and caused the Knights plenty of problems inside the opening quarter of an hour. They created their first chance in the 5th minute, Dennis Alilovic rose highest to meet a long throw but could not direct his header on target, Mark Tsiorlas had a similar chance moments later with the same result.

In the 10th minute a Heidelberg free kick just missed Joshua Groenewald coming in at the back post as the Knights struggled to repeal the Berger's attacks.

Saso Aleksovski tried his luck from outside the box, but failed to hit the target. Despite the early domination Heidelberg had nothing to show for it, and the Knights made them pay the ultimate price.

Cameron Watson's free kick was flicked on by Stefan Piorkowski and finished off by Joe Spiteri at the back post for the perfect set-piece play and put the Knights in-front with their first effort on goal.

The goal sparked the Knights into attack as they began to dominate the play, with Cameron Watson, Alex Kiratzoglou and James Timmons controlling the middle of the park. Andrew Barisic worked his way into the game after a quiet start, and forced a good save from Peter Galavas in the 24th minute. The Knights were unlucky not to double their lead minutes later when Joe Spiteri's header from a Watson corner was cleared on the line by a defender

In the 32nd minute the Knights had a good penalty shout turned down for a handball in the box, however the referee was not in the best position to see the incident.

However the Knights did double their lead in the 34th minute. Joe Spiteri put enough pressure on James Stefanou to win the ball and square it to the unmarked Barisic to tap home from 6 yards and send the Knights into half time with a two goal lead.

The Berger's came out for the second half with renewed vigour, Hockless, Gasparis and Vassiliadis pushed forward without invitation, but were met with the resilient Knights defence consisting Elvin, Grbesa, Cumming and Iosifidis.

Heidelberg had a golden opportunity to get themselves back into the game in the 58th minute, Alilovic's though ball allowed Marino Gasparis to split two Knights defenders and move into the box, his shot was expertly saved by Savas Ozdemier diving at the strikers' feet.

Ozdemier was called into action again in the 63rd minute tipping over a thunderous effort from Eric Vassiliadis.

Heidelberg pushed number's forward in desperate search of an equaliser as the Knight's looked extremely dangerous on the counter attack. Ironically it was a counter attack that led to Heidelberg getting back into the game. The Knights surged forward in the 75th minute looking to kill off the game, Joe Spiteri releasing Matthew Grbesa into space, however Galavas cut out the pass before the defender could score, immediately on a counter attack of their own Aleksovksi's set up Graham Hockless who exposed the hole left by Grbesa, to round the keeper and finish from a tight angle.

Substitute Zoran Petrevski thought he had secured the win for the Knight's, however the linesman ruled out his headed effort. Despite bags of nerves from the Knights supporters and player's, the Sunshine based club managed to hold the Berger's at bay and secure their first finals berth after a long and agonising 12 years.

Despite the disappointment for the Heidelberg faithful, it must be mentioned that they have performed exceptionally well this year, especially in the second half of the season and in the finals, they can be proud of their efforts in 2008

The Knights will meet Altona Magic next Sunday at Bob Jane stadium (KO 3pm) to battle out for Championship honours.

MATCH STATS
SHOTS: MK 10 HU 11
TARGET: MK 6 HU 5
CORNERS: MK 4 HU 2

Melbourne Knights Line Up: Ozdemir, Iosifidis, Piorkowski (Petrevski 71'), Grbesa, Watson, Spiteri (Zahra 92'), Barisic, Timmons, Cumming, Elvin, Kiratzoglou.

Not Used: Loncaric, Thompson, Muriqi.
Yellow Cards: Spiteri 44'

Goals: Joe Spiteri 19', Andrew Barisic 34'.

Heidelberg United Line Up: Gavalas, Jones, Vassiliadis, Aleksovski, Hockless, Drossos (Reid 69'), Stefanou (Paton 88'), Tsiorlas, Gasparis, Groenewald (Roberts 54'), Alilovoc.

Not Used: Laino, Ameti

Yellow Cards: Stefanou 86'

Goals: Graham Hockless 77'
MoM: Joe Spiteri (MK)
Crowd: 2000 @ Epping Stadium

Goalden Heroes: A pumped up Joe Spiteri and Andrew Baresic supplied the Knights with the goals that secured a grand final berth

By Andrew Fisher

Photos by John Punshon

Daniel Jones clears the lines while Cameron Watson tries to intercept

Saso Aleksovski is brought down by Craig Elvin's interception

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HEIDELBERG UNITED

2 - 2

HUWFC win 4-2 on penalties

PRESTON LIONS

BERGERS TO DEFEND CROWN

Inter v Bergers in Grand Final Rematch

The stage is now set for a rematch of last year's Grand Final, after Heidelberg United defeated Preston Lions in the Preliminary Final on Sunday, to join Box Hill Inter in next weekend's WPL season decider. United, the reigning premier, was unable to see off the feisty Lions side in regular time, with the match going penalties before a winner could be determined. It is a testament to the parity of this season's competition that three of the five finals have needed extra time or penalties in order to produce a winner.

Given the added experience of the team as a whole, and its position as reigning premier, Heidelberg went into the game as the slight favourite, but it was Preston that gained the advantage with the only goal of the first half. Peta Lipec broke the deadlock on the half hour, giving Preston the lead, a lead that it took into the interval. Heidelberg, however, has proved all season that it can never be discounted, and it struck back quickly after the break, when Lucy Balta leveled the score five minutes into the second period. United was in the ascendancy at this point, and it took the lead twelve minutes later, when Megan Thornton found the net. It was her first goal for Heidelberg, and it could not have come at a more crucial point of the season.

There was still more drama to come, however, and the watching crowd did not have to wait long for another goal. Once again, like so many times in the season previously, it was Lipec who has the heroine for Preston, scoring her second of the game to tie things up. With neither side able to break through in the remaining fifteen minutes, the match headed for extra time. The additional thirty minutes, with both teams tiring, produced no further scores, and so the lottery of penalties ensued. The Heidelberg players held their nerve better than their Preston adversaries, scoring four of their five penalties, with Preston scoring two from four.

Heidelberg will now need to recover quickly, before taking on the rested Box Hill Inter in the Grand Final next Sunday at Bob Jane Stadium. United has gone about making the final the hard way, after finishing fourth on the ladder, playing knock out matches in every week of the finals and playing extra time in each of those three encounters. By contrast, Box Hill has played just once in the finals, making the Grand Final at the first attempt, as it bypassed Preston last weekend within the regular ninety minutes. While both sides have enjoyed vastly differing preparations for the final, it will all be forgotten when the sides run out next week, each determined to go home with the 2008 WPL trophy.

By Niki Cook

Photo by John Punshon

Peta Lipec, who scored both of Preston's goals, in action against Meagan Thornton

Lucy Balta celebrates her goal while Kate Christoff and goalie Nabby Saliba have their heads down

Jamara Maza leads her team in celebrating its win on penalties against Preston Lions

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QUEENSLAND TOPS THE CLASS

Queensland co-captians Reece Dalton and Michael Haydock with the winner's trophy

The FFV's Mark Rendell and Chris Bambridge applaud participants at the closing ceremony

Former Socceroo goalkeeper Terry Greedy adds another bit of silverware to the trophy cabinet after coaching New South Wales to equal second place

On the Friday 12th of September, School Sports Australia wrapped up their week long annual soccer carnival involving representatives from around Australia. The tournament was held at Doncaster Rovers Soccer Club.

The matches were fiercely contested with many of the children giving their all, as for many it was the first and maybe only opportunity to represent their state at a national carnival. In the end, both trophies were on the plane to Queensland as they clinched the Boys and Girls championship with both teams receiving 24 points. Silver and bronze medals went to NSW and SA in the Boys and Girls competitions, with the states tying for 2nd in the Boys competition while in the Girls competition NSW pipped SA to second place by one point with each receiving 19 and 18 points respectively. The minor placings went to the ACT (5th in the Girls competition and 4th in Boys), Victoria (4th in Girls and 5th in boys) and the Northern Territory (6th in the both competitions).

In attendance to award medals to the competitors were Mark Rendell the Football Federation of Victoria CEO, John McAloon a member of the FFV, Chris Bambridge former referee who officiated at the 86' World Cup and Robyn Miller Executive Officer of the VPSSA.

Also present at the tournament was ex-Socceroo goalkeeper Terry Greedy coaching the NSW boys team.

The former NSL star who was between the sticks fro two World Cup campaigns shared his thoughts at the conclusion of the closing ceremony, "It was a wonderful experience and the quality of the football from the kids from across Australia was outstanding. I was blown away by the quality of the skill and the level of play. The organisation was magnificent, but unfortunately the grounds were pretty ordinary. The playing surface made it a little difficult to play, but overall it's been a great week."

A number of scouts were taking a keen interest in the talent that was on display with much interest surrounding Queensland co-captain goalkeeper Michael Haydock, who was rumoured to being courted by the AIS with a potential scholarship on the horizon. The youngster is also currently receiving goalkeeper training with the Queensland Roar.

The successful competition was organized by School Sports Australia with many stars of tomorrow having their chance to shine and make football friends from across the country.

By Menasseh Antachew

Photos by Gordon Bennett

The Victorian Boys and Girls Squads finished the week long VPSSA carnival in 5th and 4th place, respectively. Next year the tournament will be hosted by South Australia.

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Additional to domestic Indoor Soccer competitions the Box Hill Indoor Sports Centre has participated in some international competitions. The most memorable being the Action Soccer World Club Cup 2006 held in Queensland. Teams from Japan, New Zealand and Box Hill teams representing Australia participated in a two day tournament.

More recently, in 2007 the Kiwis invaded our centre in a Tri Nations tournament over two days. An Under 21's competition along with an Open tournament was played. The favour is most surely going to be returned with a trip to New Zealand planned in 2009.

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BABEL BURIES RED DEVILS

Chelsea Wins "Moneybags At 10 Paces"

This week's Euro Wrap sees Goal! Weekly reporter Julius Ross check out the star performers of the weekend's fixtures and the all the important action at the top of Europe's finest leagues.

CITY OF RICHES FAILS TO PRODUCE

In the Premier League's "clash of the cash", the world's richest Club – Manchester City – succumbed to the second richest – Chelsea – with City's new look squad failing to match the challenge offered by a 'big four' club.

British record signing Robinho made the perfect start to the Citizen's new era of optimism by opening the scoring after just 13 minutes with a Brazilian-style free-kick, but three unanswered goals from Chelsea meant that the 200 million pound take-over by the Abu Dhabi United Group has not yet bought ultimate success.

It was Chelsea's seventh straight win over City and proved that the team with a bottomless pit of money will have to keep spending big if they want to be regarded as a premiership elite.

Talking of Premiership elites, Liverpool's seven-year wait for a home victory over fierce rivals Manchester United finally came to an end as the Merseysiders recorded a 2-1 win over the Red Devils.

United had won the last five meetings between the two sides, illustrating the power-shift which has taken place over the last twenty years, which has seen a Premiership title elude Liverpool's grasp in 18 years.

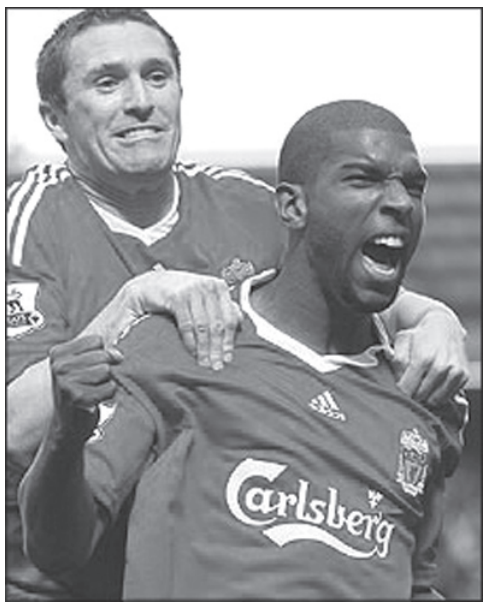
But it was Liverpool's day on Saturday, as a Wes Brown own-goal and a goal 13 minutes from time from super-sub Ryan Babel cancelled out Carlos Tevez' early opener.

After starting their season slowly, Arsenal have finally found the right formula to turn dominance, intricate and beautiful football into goals.

The Gunners seem to have shrugged off their early season blues, backing up their 3-0 win against Newcastle with a 4-0 drubbing of Blackburn Rovers.

England's 19-year-old hero Theo Walcott capped off a perfect week after his hat-trick in European World Cup qualifying against Croatia, by setting up the first goal for Robin van Persie.

Emmanuel Adebayor also signalled the end of his form slump, taking the reigns from Walcott and burying Rovers with a superb hat-trick.



Ryan Babel and Roy Keane celebrate Liverpool's first home win over Man United since 2001

INTER HANDS MOURINHO HOME DEBUT-DAY POINTS

From top four action in England to Serie A Champions Inter Milan in Italy who staged a ten-man come-from-behind 2-1 victory to rescue their early-season campaign against Catania.

After dropping two vital points in their opening match draw against Sampdoria, Inter gave coach Jose Mourinho his first win in charge of the Italian giants in his debut at the San Siro.

AS Roma's title tilt has gone into disaster mode as the Giallorossi succumbed to Palmero 3-1.

The Romans have picked up just one point from a possible six in their opening two matches, with an injury crisis causing serious issues – the side missed five key regulars, including captain Francesco Totti.

BARCA CONTINUES EARLY SEASON SLUMP

Barcelona is in similar trouble in Spain where their flat display against lowly Racing Santander saw them struggle to a 1-1 draw for their first point of the 2008/09 Primera Liga campaign.

Losing 1-0 to Numancia in their season opener, Barca's performance was again questionable for the array of talent on display, the side needing Argentine superstar Lionel Messi to salvage a point in dire circumstances.

Elsewhere, Seville overcame Sporting Gijon in a classic seven-goal thriller, with former West Ham man Frederic Kanoute 'sealing the deal' with a 60th minute winner for a 4-3 victory.

OLYMPIQUE TAKE LYON'S SHARE

Reigning champions and current Ligue 1 leaders Olympique Lyon made sure there was no change at the top of the league by securing a controversial 3-2 win over Nice on Saturday.

Trailing 2-0 after just 20 minutes, Lyon staged the perfect fight-back, with Brazilian genius Juninho scoring two free-kicks – one from half-way – and Karim Benzema scoring his fifth goal of the campaign in the dying stages.

Lyon now sits in the familiar position on top of the league table, with 13 points from five matches, two more than Marseille who drew 1-1 at Bordeaux.

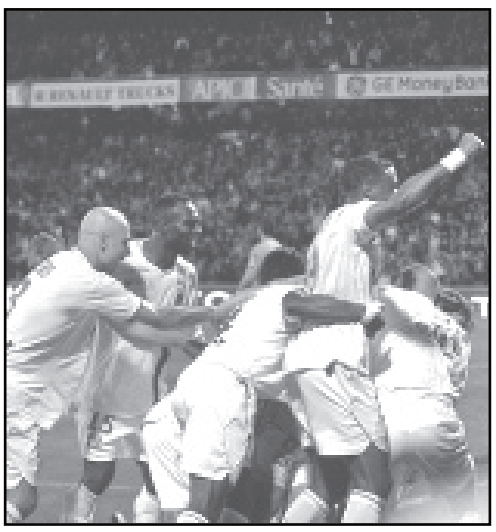
MUNICH HITS IMPRESSIVE FORM

In Germany, Schalke 04 threw away a three-goal lead and their position atop the Bundesliga table, as Borussia Dortmund launched a frenetic fight-back to draw 3-3.

Schalke had two men sent off during the amazing Dortmund come-back, in a careless display in front of 80,000 excited spectators.

Hamburg took over the leadership with their own come-from-behind victory against Bayer Leverkusen – after trailing 2-0, the new league leaders fought back to win 3-2.

Title holders Bayern Munich seem to have hit form of late, after drawing their opening two matches Jurgen Klinsmann's side has scored seven goals in their past two games, with Saturday's 3-0 against Colonge launching them within two points of leaders Hamburg.



Lyon´s players celebrate after Karim Benzema scored a goal during their French L1 football match against Nice

By Julius Ross

Photos by Soccer Way

EUROPEAN TEAM OF THE WEEK

Although taking the slightly strange formation of 2-4-5, this week's European Team of the Week illustrates the class of strikers and the level-headedness of a couple of debutants.

Manager: Rafa BENITEZ (Liverpool)
Although Ryan Babel's super-sub appearance stole much of the limelight at Anfield, Liverpool's Spanish manager Benitez must be given some credit for finally recording his first win over his club's fierce arch-rival Manchester United. The Liverpool boss had never beaten Manchester United in eight previous league games during his career on Merseyside.

Goalkeeper: Manuel ALMUNIA (Arsenal)
Despite his team running out 4-0 winners against Blackburn, Almunia showed his class and superb reflexes to tip Rovers' danger-man Roque Santa Cruz's effort over the top to keep his side ahead – just after Robin van Persie had taken the lead for the Londoners.

Defenders:
Tranquillo BARNETTA (Bayer Leverkusen)
Barnetta was one of the few defenders to hit the net in Germany this weekend, but his fourth minute effort for Bayer Leverkusen failed to give his side three points over leaders Hamburg.
Ricardo CARVALHO (Chelsea)
Crediting defenders for their attacking prowess this week, Calvarlho makes the cut thanks to his 16th minute equaliser against Manchester City. The Portuguese defender made sure City's lead lasted a mere three minutes by lashing home a Frank Lampard corner.

Midfielders:
Theo WALCOTT (Arsenal)
A hero mid-week with England, Walcott's obvious confidence helped him to tear apart the Rovers' backline, with the teenager setting up van Persie for the opener.
JUNINHO (Lyon)
Lyon's set-piece maestro finished two superb free-kicks for the reigning French champions – one of which was slotted home from the half-way mark.
Ricardo QUARESMA (Inter Milan)
A long-time target of Jose Mourinho during the off-season, Quaresma paid back his manager's 18 million euro investment with a debut-day goal.

Forwards:
Fabrizio MICCOLI (Palermo)
Striking twice against an injury-hit AS Roma, Miccoli hit a stunning right-footed shot into the top corner of the Roma net after 12 minutes, and deftly chipped home on 57 minutes for two superb individual goals.
ROBINHO (Manchester City)
After all the criticism the boy has copped during the last two weeks for his multi-million dollar transfer to Manchester City, the Brazillian produced the goods for his new club after just 13 minutes, commencing the 'revolution' at the 'Middle Eastlands'. Unfortunately it wasn't enough for a fairytale beginning as City lost 3-1.
Emmanuel ADEBAYOR (Arsenal)
An impressive Arsenal performance was rounded out by a neat Adebayor hat-trick, his first goals of the 2008/09 campaign.
Luca TONI (Bayern Munich)
The Bundesliga's top marksman last season, Toni has adapted perfectly to the German game after transferring from Italy's Fiorentina and he scored a neat double in his side's 3-0 win against Colonge.
Frederic KANOUTE (Sevilla)
Former Tottenham and West Ham striker Kanoute – another player to scored a double this weekend - continued his reign in Spain as he helped Seville to a thrilling 4-3 win over plucky Gijon

EPL RESULTS

Liverpool 2 - 1 Manchester United
Portsmouth 2 - 1 Middlesbrough
Wigan Athletic 1 - 1 Sunderland
Newcastle United 1 - 2 Hull City
Fulham 2 - 1 Bolton Wanderers
West Bromwich Albion 3 - 2 West Ham
Blackburn Rovers 0 - 4 Arsenal
Manchester City 1 - 3 Chelsea

	P	PTS
1. Chelsea FC	4	10
2. Liverpool FC	4	10
3. Arsenal FC	4	9
4. Hull City AFC	4	7
5. Manchester City FC	4	6
6. Fulham FC	3	6
7. West Ham United	4	6

BUNDESLIGA RESULTS

Eintracht Frankfurt P- P Karlsruher SC
TSG 1899 Hoffenheim 0 - 0 VfB Stuttgart
Borussia Dortmund 3 - 3 FC Schalke 04
Hamburger SV 3 - 2 Bayer Leverkusen
1. FC Köln 0 - 3 FC Bayern München
Hertha BSC Berlin 2 - 2 VfL Wolfsburg
SV Werder Bremen 3 - 0 FC Energie

	P	PTS
1 Hamburg	4	10
2 Bayern Munich	4	8
3 Schalke 04	4	8
4 Borussia Dortmund	4	8
5 VfB Stuttgart	4	7
6 TSG Hoffenheim	4	7
7 Bayer Leverkusen	4	6

SPL RESULTS

Motherwell 2 - 4 Celtic
Glasgow Rangers 2 - 1 Kilmarnock
Hibernian 2 - 1 Dundee United
Falkirk 2 - 1 Heart of Midlothian
Inverness Cal Thistle 1 - 2 Saint Mirren
Aberdeen 1 - 2 Hamilton Academicals

	P	PTS
1 Rangers	5	13
2 Celtic	5	10
3 Kilmarnock	5	10
4 Hamilton	5	9
5 Hearts	5	9
6 Inverness CT	5	7
7 Hibernian	5	7

LIGUE 1 RESULTS

Valenciennes A 1 - 1 Grenoble Foot 38
Olympique Lyonnais 3 - 2 OGC Nice
AJ Auxerre 1 - 1 AS Nancy Lorraine
Stade Rennais 1 - 1 Le Havre AC
Le Mans UC 72 1 - 2 Toulouse
AS Monaco 2 - 0 Lorient
Bordeaux 1 - 1 Marseille

	P	PTS
1 Lyon	5	13
2 Marseille	5	11
3 Grenoble	5	10
4 Le Mans	5	9
5 Nice	5	9
6 Monaco	5	8
7 Toulouse	5	8

WELLINGTON PHOENIX

0 - 0

CENTRAL COAST MARINERS

MOSS A ROCK IN DEFENCE

Tight Affair Ends In Stalemate

The overwhelming desire by both Central Coast Mariner's and Wellington Phoenix not to make the same mistakes that have led to defeats in recent games led tonight's encounter to be a tightly contested and bristly 0-0 affair.

With the Mariners coming off the back of last weeks first A-League victory this season, they had the better of the opening few minutes. Sasho Petrovski almost snatching the lead for the visitors with a great header in the 5th minute, but was denied by the diving Phoenix keeper.

Wellington coach Ricki Herbert's desire to see "a decent 90 minutes" performance from his team was answered with tenacity from his players, 3 of whom received yellow cards inside the first 45 minutes.

The omission of Muscat at the back, and the return of David Mulligan to the starting line-up, has given Phoenix captain Andrew Durante the support he needs if Wellington is going to be competitive this season. Durante's organisation and distribution of ball from the back was far superior to earlier efforts. Tony Lochhead's composed tackling and running on the ball further supported this. Rather than give the ball away cheaply with miss-timed long passes, a factor that plagued the phoenix in their game against the Melbourne Victory, the players looked for quick passing to get around Central Coast.

The Mariners however, are a very determined side, a fact wonderfully illustrated tonight by the performance of midfielder Andrew Clark. He ran hard at the Phoenix players and forced a lot of the play out wide where he could disrupt any attempt at making a cross. Even after leaving the field injured, he was able to return with real resolve, working hard up and down the right wing. Clark linked well with Mariner's players Nigel Boogaard and Simon Osman, whose skills were well used to turn defence into attack, and forced at least two memorable saves from Wellington keeper Glen Moss.

Perhaps Wellington's best chance in the game came in the 63rd minute when Shane Smeltz was able to run behind the Mariners defence. His shot caused a scramble in the Central Coast 6 yard box when it was deflected into the path of the oncoming Troy Hearfield. Mariner's keeper Mark Bosnich was solid however, and deflected the ball to be cleared away.

The ability of Central Coast to close down Wellington led the Phoenix coach to bring on creative playmaker Leilei Gao in the 74th minute. He was a welcome introduction for the home fans and caused a stir with his direct and dynamic running.

While the draw gives both teams a valuable point, it does little to answer some of the questions being raised about the ability of the Phoenix to turn undeniable talent into results. They did well to deliver a consistent performance over the full 90 mins, being forced to defend late attacks from Mariners Andrew Clark and substitute Adrian Caceres, but not enough to suggest that this was the answer to Herbert's "we'll be right next week."

I imagine Mariners coach Lawrie McKinna will be happy to walk away from the trip to New Zealand with a point, and to do so without adding to his injury worries. His Central Coast team will need all their strength against the in-form Melbourne Victory next Saturday.

By Mark McGeady

Photos by Mark McGeady

PLAYER RATINGS - WPFC

Lochhead: 8. Adjusted his play over the past few weeks with some strong running at opponents tonight and more composed passing. Very good building momentum through the left wing.
McKain: 6. Better defensive play than previous week, McKain showed good commitment to his task.
Smeltz: 8. Another good performance but curbed tonight through close marking. Some incisive runs into the box, Smeltz always poses a danger.
Dodd: 7. Karl had a lot of work to do tonight and he did it well. Ran hard all game, eventually subbed in the 87th minute.
Cortes: 7. Daniel was able to return to his natural game, but without the mistake that plagued him in the previous phoenix home game. Some creative flare in attack and made a couple of good interceptions. Roundly applauded when he was substituted in the 72nd minute.
Johnson: 7. Beginning to iron out inconsistent play and seems more at home in the starting eleven. Tackled hard and dropped back well in defence.
Hearfield: 8. Supported Smeltz in attack with a couple of good shots on target, and forced a very good save from Bosnich tonight. A good overall performance.
Coveny: 7. While he ran hard for the full 90mins, he struggled to make much of an impact in the congested midfield. He did drag defenders away from Shane Smeltz giving him more room in which to play.
Moss: 9. An almost flawless display from the keeper. He has responded incredible well to the first few weeks of the season and looks to be in top form. Great distribution and athletic saving making this a fantastic man-of-the-match winning effort.
Durante: 8. Another solid showing from the Phoenix captain. He was vocal all night, which is always a good sign from him. Good distribution forward with a well thought out plan for defending against a sharp Mariners attack.
Mulligan: 6. A reasonably quiet night for David Mulligan, but perhaps more to do with have a busy game defending against the Mariners attack.
Substitutes:
Leilei Gao (74th): 8. Made almost immediate impact with his dynamic and creative playmaking. He ran hard at players and is a real force to be reckoned with.
Sigmund (72nd): 7. Good performance in the time he hard off the bench. A solid and attack minded player who was an energetic replacement for Daniel.
Brown (87th): 7. Defended the late flurry of attacks from Central Coast, a difficult task coming straight from the bench this late in the game.

The Mariners' John Hutchinson is yellow carded for his efforts in attempting to win a penalty illegally

PLAYER RATINGS - CCM

Bojic: 7. Bojic tracked back well during the game and was a very solid force in defence. He ran hard and was able to deliver some good passes up through the left wing area.
Porter: 6. A quiet first half but got better as the game progressed. Was sometimes caught out of position on defence when coming too far forward. Did a good job of closely marking Daniel in the first half and had a good shot on goal saved by Glen Moss.
Hutchinson: 7. Demonstrated some very quick attack, although was a bit overzealous at times, securing a yellow card for diving in the penalty box. A good game overall though.
Clark: 9. A highlight for the Central Coast Mariners, exemplifying their gritty resolve. Left the field after a nasty tackle but was undaunted and continued to fight hard.
Boogaard: 7. Defended well against both Coveny and Smeltz. Linked well with Osman up the right wing. A good overall performance.
Osman: 8. Some excellent distribution of the ball and very competitive in the air. Ran hard for the full 90 minutes.
Wilkinson: 7. The Mariners captain had a good game and proved instrumental in stopping Shane Smeltz when coming forward.
Simon: 7. Probably not in the game as much as he would have liked. He was forced to come back to retrieve that ball at times which put him out of position. Overall though, Simon had a good game.
Petrovski: 7. A player with attacking flare. He made some incisive runs that ended with a couple of good shots. I'm sure he would like to covert more of this quality possession into goals. He was however, marked tightly by Tony Lochhead which limited his effectiveness.
Jedinak: 7. Loved to run at the opposition from the midfield, but was often closed down and struggled to link up effectively with players such as Matt Simon.
Bosnich: 8. Another good game for the quality keeper. Was quiet for large parts of the game as the Mariners attacked, but was always sharp when called upon to react.
Substitutes:
D'Apuzzo (83rd): 7. Replaced the outstanding Andrew Clark. Didn't have much time to make an impact but remained solid in his defensive work.
Caceres (72 rd): 7. A dynamic player who made a noticeable impact with direct and speedy attack. Did a good job of replacing Petrovski up front for the Mariners.

PERTH GLORY

0 - 3

QUEENSLAND ROAR

ROAR OPEN SEASON ACCOUNT

Sorry Glory Slump Again

PLAYER RATINGS - GLORY

Petkovic: 5 – Looked very uncomfortable.
Coyne: 4 – Another poor day in defence, deserved to be taken off.
Tarka: 6 – Solid at the back despite lack of support.
McLaren: 4 – Looked awful early but improved when moved to right-back.
Topor-Stanley: 6 – Offered quite a bit going forward.
Bulloch: 6 – One of Glory's better contributers.
Pellegrino: 5 – Minimal impact on the game.
Amaral: 8 – Clearly Perth's best. Carried the side before succumbing to injury.
Rukavystya: 6 – Disappointing by his standards.
Trinidad: 5 – Had no impact up front.
Dadi: 6 – Very involved but too slow to cause much damage.
Robinson: 5 – Did nothing to change the game.
Skorich: 6 – Made a couple of promising runs.
Bright: 6 – Worked hard and had some impact.

Another lackluster performance saw Perth Glory slump to its third defeat in four games as Queensland Roar recorded a 3-0 victory at Members Equity Stadium.

Once again Perth's defence was once again exposed as a major weakness, with the experienced backline unable to control Queensland's potent strike force.

After a promising start from the Glory which saw Eugene Dadi denied by only a brilliant save from Roar goalkeeper Liam Reddy, it was the visitors who opened the scoring through former Socceroos captain Craig Moore in the 15th minute. After Queensland were awarded a free-kick just outside the box, Massimo Murdocca played a delightful ball through to Matt McKay, who cut back to Moore, allowing the veteran defender to finish nicely from the edge of the penalty area.

Four minutes later the Roar came close to doubling their lead as another free-kick played short found McKay, who this time took the shot himself, only to have his effort well blocked by Jason Petkovic.

Glory's defence was exposed again in the 23rd minute as McKay made up for his earlier miss when he finished nicely under Petkovic after he was played through by Serginho van Dijk.

Young attacker Scott Bulloch had one of Perth's only real chances of the game when he made an excellent run down the right wing, cut inside and shot agonizingly wide from the edge of the box in the 44th minute.

Deep into first half stoppage time the Roar put the game virtually beyond doubt as Charlie Miller put the visitors up 3-0. Reinaldo had made Glory captain Jamie Coyne look foolish with a strong run down the wing, following it up with a nice pass to Miller, who finished calmly from 15 yards.

In an attempt to heal Perth's defensive woes, the out-of-form Coyne was replaced at half-time by midfielder James Robinson. The move paid minimal dividends with the reshuffle unable to truly halt the Queensland charge. Dutch striker van Dijk had a golden chance to put the Roar four up in the 60th minute when he cannoned a cross from Reinaldo into the crossbar from inside six yards, just three minutes after he had failed to capitalise on another excellent opportunity.

Perth were unable to create any real chances in the second half, seeing the game fizzle out into a 3-0 win for the Roar in front of a disappointed home crowd of 8,303.

By Jacob Kagi

Photos by FFA

PLAYER RATINGS - ROAR

Reddy: 7 – Did everything that was required of him.
Packer: 6 – Largely unchallenged.
DeVere: 7 – Showed great ability and maturity.
Moore: 8 – Excellent in defence and scored a goal.
Murdocca: 7 – Gave a solid performance throughout the match.
van Dijk: 7 – Lively in attack.
Miller: 8: - Caused the Glory defence endless problems.
Reinaldo: 8 – Was a constant danger.
McKay: 8 – Showed great creativity and flair.
Seo: 7 – Did what was needed of him.
Tiatto: 8 – Excellent showing in midfield enforcer role.
Minniecon: 7 – Worked hard and looked lively.
Dodd: 6 – Didn't have a huge impact.
Zullo: 5 – Came on when the game was well beyond doubt and had little impact.

RESULTS - ROUND THREE

Melbourne Victory 1 (Kevin Muscat 63')
Adelaide United 0
Telstra Dome, Melbourne
Friday 12 September 2008
Crowd: 24,812

Melbourne Victory line-up: 1.Michael THEOKLITOS (gk), 2.Kevin MUSCAT (Captain), 5.Sebastian RYALL, 7.Matthew KEMP, 9.Danny ALLSOPP,10.Archie THOMPSON (4.Steven PACE 93+'), 11.NEY FABIANO, 12.Rodrigo VARGAS, 14.Billy CELESKI, 16.Carlos HERNANDEZ (8.Grant BREBNER 70'), 19.Evan BERGER.

Substitutes Not Used: 15.Tom PONDELJAK, 20.Mitchell LANGERAK (gk).

Yellow Cards: Kevin Muscat 43', Evan Berger 66'

Red Cards: Ney Fabiano 29'.

Adelaide United line-up: 20.Eugene GALEKOVIC (gk), 2.Robert CORNTHWAITE, 4.Angelo COSTANZO, 7.Lucas PANTELIS, 9.Paul AGOSTINO, 10.CRISTIANO (22.DIEGO 69'), 13.Travis DODD (Captain), 14.Scott JAMIESON, 15.Jonas SALLEY (18.Fabian BARBIERO 91+'), 19.Sasa OGNENOVSKI, 24.Paul REID (16.Daniel MULLEN 91+').

Substitutes Not Used: 30 Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk).

Yellow Cards: Angelo Costanzo 42', Diego 81'.

Red Cards: Nil

Newcastle Jets 0
Sydney FC 0
EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle
Saturday 13 September
Crowd: 11,535

Newcastle Jets Line-up: 1.Ante COVIC (gk), 2.Adam GRIFFITHS (Captain), 5.James HOLLAND, 8.Matt THOMPSON, 9.Joel GRIFFITHS, 10.Jin-Hyung SONG, 11.Tarek ELRICH, 12.Jobe WHEELHOUSE, 15.Jason HOFFMAN, 23.Edmundo ZURA (6.Jesper HAKANSSON 63'), 25.Daniel PIORKOWSKI (3.Jade NORTH 72').

Substitutes Not Used: 16.Ben KANTAROVSKI, 20.Ben KENNEDY (gk).

Yellow Cards: Matt Thompson 9', Tarek Elrich 84', Jobe Wheelhouse 85'.

Red Cards: Nil

Sydney FC Line-up: 1.Clint BOLTON (gk), 2.Ian FYFE, 6.Tony POPOVIC (Captain), 7.Rob MIDDLEBY, 8.Stuart MUSIALIK, 10.Steve CORICA (5.Mitchell PRENTICE 68'), 12.Shannon COLE (27.Matthew JURMAN 77'), 14.Alex BROSQUE (11.Brendon SANTALAB 81'), 15.Terry MCFLYNN, 19.Mark BRIDGE, 23.John ALOISI.

Substitutes Not Used: 20.Ivan NECEVSKI (gk).

Yellow Cards: Mark Bridge 45', Mitchell Prentice 82'/88', Brendon Santalab 92'.
Red Cards: Mitchell Prentice 88'

Wellington Phoenix 0
Central Coast Mariners 0
Westpac Stadium, Wellington
Sunday 14 September, 2008
Crowd: 6,928

Wellington Phoenix Line-up: 20.Glen MOSS (gk), 3.Tony LOCHHEAD, 4.Jon McKAIN, 5.Karl DODD (6.Tim BROWN 87'), 8.Vaughan COVENY, 9.Shane SMELTZ, 11.DANIEL (18.Ben SIGMUND 53'), 12.Richard JOHNSON, 13.Troy HEARFIELD (21.Leilei GAO 75'), 16.David MULLIGAN, 22.Andrew DURANTE (Captain).

Substitutes Not Used: 1.Mark PASTON (gk).

Yellow Cards: Richard Johnson 6', Karl Dodd 18', Troy Hearfield 45'.

Red Cards: Nil

Central Coast Mariners Line-up: 40.Mark BOSNICH (gk), 4.Pedj BOJIC, 5.Bradley PORTER, 7.John HUTCHINSON, 15.Andrew CLARK (6.David D'APUZZO 83'), 16.Nigel BOOGAARD, 17.Matthew OSMAN, 18.Alex WILKINSON (Captain), 19.Matt SIMON, 22.Sasho PETROVSKI (10.Adrian CACERES 53'), 23.Mile JEDINAK.

Substitutes Not Used: 13.Paul O'GRADY, 30.Andrew REDMAYNE (gk).

Yellow Cards: John Hutchinson 51', Pedj Bojic 54'.

Red Cards: Nil

Perth Glory 0
Queensland Roar 3 (Craig Moore 14', Matt McKay 23', Charlie Miller 46+')
Members Equity Stadium, Perth
Sunday 14 September, 2008
Crowd: 8,203

Perth Glory Line-up: 1.Jason PETKOVIC (gk), 2.Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY, 3.David TARKA, 4.Jamie COYNE (Captain) (8.James ROBINSON 46'), 9.Adrian TRINIDAD (24.Anthony SKORICH 62'), 10.AMARAL, 11.Scott BULLOCH, 13.Nikita RUKAVYTSYA, 14.Eugene DADI, 16.Adriano PELLEGRINO (26.Jeff BRIGHT 64').27. Stuart McLAREN.

Substitutes Not Used: 30.Tando VELAPHI (gk).

Yellow Cards: Eugene Dadi 27', Amaral 56', James Robinson 60', Stuart McLaren 80', Nikolai Topor-Stanley 90', David Tarka 89'.

Red Cards: Nil

Queensland Roar line-up: 1.Liam REDDY (gk), 2.Andrew PACKER, 3.Luke DEVERE, 4.Craig MOORE, 8.Massimo MURDOCCA, 9.Sergio VAN DIJK, 10.Charlie MILLER (7.Michael ZULLO 78'), 11.Reinaldo (12.Tahj MINNIECON 71'), 15.Matt McKAY, 16.Hyuk-Su SEO, 18.Danny TIATTO (6.Dave DODD 71').

Substitutes Not Used: 20.Griffin McMASTER (gk).

Yellow Cards: Andrew Packer 26'.

STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Melbourne Victory	4	3	1	0	10	2	8	10
Sydney FC	4	2	2	0	8	4	4	8
Adelaide United	4	2	1	1	5	2	3	7
Central Coast Mariners	4	1	2	1	7	6	1	5
Queensland Roar	4	1	2	1	7	6	1	5
Newcastle Jets	4	0	3	1	4	9	-5	3
Wellington Phoenix	4	0	2	2	3	8	-5	2
Perth Glory	4	0	1	3	5	12	-7	1

ROUND FOUR

MELBOURNE VICTORY
V
ADELAIDE UNITED
KO 8pm Friday 12th Sep
Telstra Dome

NEWCASTLE JETS
V
SYDNEY FC
KO 7pm Saturday 13th Sep
Energy Australia

WELLINGTON PHOENIX
V
MARINERS
KO 5pm Sunday 14th Sep[
Westpac Stadium

PERTH GLORY
V
ROAR
KO 3pm Sunday 14th August
Members Equity Stadium

TOP SCORERS

4 – Danny Allsopp (MV), Charlie Miller (QR)
3 – Steve Corica (SFC), Eugene Dadi (PG), Shane Smeltz (WP)

NEWCASTLE JETS

0 - 0

SYDNEY FC

JETS AND BLING SHARE THE SPOILS

Jets Get Their Wings Back Aftyer Thumping

The Newcastle Jets and Sydney FC have fought out a torrid 0-0 draw in a tense Hyundai A-League round-four clash at EnergyAustralia Stadium on Saturday night.

The defending champions turned around some poor recent form to show far more commitment from the opening whistle to outmuscle their more fancied East Coast rivals and have the better of opportunities in what could be described as a spiteful encounter.

Newcastle players Matt Thompson, Tarek Elrich and Jobe Wheelhouse were all shown yellow cards as were former Jet Mark Bridge and FC forward Brendon Santalab, while replacement Sydney midfielder Mitchell Prentice was sent from the field late in the match for his second yellow for a studs-up challenge on Jets stand-in skipper Adam Griffiths.

Bridge and former Novocastrian Stuart Musalik were shown plenty of attention in an even first half before Newcastle took control of the second stanza but couldn't convert a number of promising opportunities as the clash finished in a goalless draw.

Newcastle coach Gary van Egmond was pleased with the attitude shown by his players, especially after coming off a 5-0 drubbing at the hands of Melbourne last start.

"The energy was good, the intensity was good and everything we spoke about good," he said after the match. "We are happy we didn't get scored against. It was one of the things we really worked on after conceding eight goals in three games and probably with a little more luck we could have got the three points. But to Sydney's credit they worked hard and were always dangerous on the counter."

The Jets had the first chance of the match in the sixth minute when Joel Griffiths played a lovely ball through for Edmundo Zura to stride into the penalty box, but the Ecuadorian could only fire his shot from wide on the six-yard box into the side netting.

Joel Griffiths headed over the bar from a pin-point corner from Korean import Jin-Hyung Song in the 12th minute before Sydney had its first chance just moments later courtesy of an Alex Brosque break down the right flank. His cross found striker John Aloisi directly in front of goal but his shot was well blocked by Jets defender Tarek Elrich.

Sydney defender Iain Fyfe fired a vicious volley from a Shannon Cole corner wide of the mark in the 22nd minute before Ante Covic did well to keep out Brosque's header after Bridge and Robbie Middleby had combined well to break down the left wing.

Zura tried a spectacular scissor kick at goal while down the other end Brosque and Cole were causing havoc in the Newcastle penalty area.

The Jets had the last chance of the first half when Song broke free of Middleby's marking to launch an attack down the right side. He found Jason Hoffman who took the ball toward the corner before squaring back to Elrich, who fired a powerful volley into the arms of Bolton to leave the scores 0-0 at the break.

James Holland went within inches of claiming the opening goal just minutes into the second half when his shot from wide on the right bounced off the crossbar, although Bolton looked like he had it well covered.

Holland went close again in the 55th minute after more good work from Song found Zura in the box. His clever back-heel flick gave Holland a free shot on the edge of the box but he could only fire it into the side netting.

Aloisi had a couple of chances for Sydney, firing an ambitious volley well wide of the mark and just missing an open header from a Corica corner, but for the most part it was the home side which had the better of the possession and territory.

Joel Griffiths made Bolton work with a well-hit long range effort before twin brother Adam had the best chance of proceedings when he glanced his header from another pin-point Song corner just wide off the far post.

A flurry of yellow cards were shown towards the end of the match as frustrations surfaced and the Jets continued to attack without reward as Sydney hung on for a tense draw.

Sydney coach John Kosmina said he was pleased to come away from the match with a point.

"It is always good to come here and get something," he said. "But having said that I think we dropped our intensity in the second half. But it was another game we didn't concede and we played some really good stuff and came away with a point. So from a football progression point of view, I was happy."

Match Report Courtesy FFA

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MELBOURNE VICTORY

1 - 0

ADELAIDE UNITED

ESCAPE TO VICTORY!

United Spitting Chips As Fabiano Sees Red

Melbourne Victory's Ney Fabiano is facing a lengthy stint on the sidelines after he was sent off for spitting at Adelaide's Robert Cornthwaite during his side's controversy strewn 1-0 win at Telstra Dome.

Referee Matthew Breeze was left with little option but to give Fabiano his marching orders midway through the first half after he appeared to spit at Cornthwaite following a minor scuffle.

The dismissal altered the complexion of a match, which until that stage, had been an end-to-end tussle between the two most attacking sides in the competition.

But it didn't deter the home side, who scored the only goal of the game in the 63rd minute through Kevin Muscat, who pounced on a kind rebound after Eugene Galekovic saved the initial spot kick, awarded for a foul on Archie Thompson by Adelaide centre defender Sasa Ognenovski.

The miss was Muscat's first in Victory colours, ending a four year streak which had netted him 16 goals.

Victory coach Ernie Merrick was pleased with his side's determination following Fabiano's dismissal, but refused to make any comment on the incident.

"I thought all round it was a tremendous performance. We've talked about performance being a combination of skill and effort and I thought it was 100 per cent on both counts tonight," Merrick said.

"We have got good depth, a really skilful team and a team that is putting in good effort. There was a good feeling in the changing room at half-time. The boys were confident for a win — they didn't go out in the second half to play for a draw and that is pretty impressive from a coach's point of view."

Melbourne opted for an ambitious strategy early in the game, fielding three strikers – Thompson, Fabiano and Danny Allsopp – in addition to Carlos Hernandez, signaling the team's intent to attack from the outset.

However, it was Adelaide who made the early running, with Ognenovski, Lucas Pantelis and Travis Dodd all coming close to opening the scoring.

Evan Berger was lively early for Melbourne, making a number of penetrating runs on the left flank as he continued to enhance his reputation as a rising star of the competition.

But it wasn't until the sending off of Fabiano that Victory began to exert control of the match, generating a number of chances.

Allsopp and Thompson both forced Galekovic into making a save, while a long range free-kick from Hernandez rattled the crossbar.

Melbourne were extremely lucky to enter the break with 10 men though after Muscat appeared to stomp on Paul Agostino's thigh following a clearance, earning the fiery skipper a yellow card.

The enthusiasm which characterised Victory's performance in the first half seemed to dampen in the second, with the side seeming reluctant to commit numbers forward.

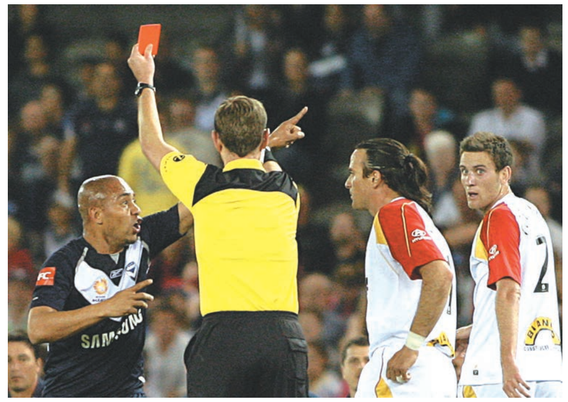
However, the Victory still seemed dangerous on the counter, with Thompson looking especially ominous, restricting the Reds ability to attack with fury.

And it indeed proved to be the A-League's all-time leading scorer, Thompson who earned the penalty which handed Melbourne the lead, drawing a foul from Ognenovski after shielding the ball with his back to goal.

United coach Aurelio Vidmar stressed the need for his side to shrug off the loss heading into its Champions League quarter final clash with Kashima Antlers, admitting the performance was less than ideal.

"We just need to pick ourselves up, mentally and physically. We really need now people to stand up, everyone. It will be tough, and only the strong will survive," he said.

"We fly into Sydney on Saturday, then fly to Japan on Sunday. We really need to get ourselves cracking, because there's not much time. We will get there late Sunday night and just work on a few things on Monday and Tuesday in readiness for the game on Wednesday, which is going to be very tough," he said.



Fabiano looks set for a lengthy ban after displaying unprofessional behaviour

Calm down, calm down everybody: Captain Kevin Muscat shows his cool to steer Victory through a sticky situation

PLAYER RATINGS - MVFC

1.Michael THEOKLITOS – 7 – Forced to make a few saves in typical performance
2.Kevin MUSCAT – 6 – Despite scoring, he performed erratically throughout
5.Sebastian RYALL – 7 – Solid display, another assured display from promising youngster
7.Matthew KEMP – 6 – Hardly made an error in defence, but seemed uncertain pushing forward 9.Danny **ALLSOPP – 6 –** Missed a good chance early, but was servicable throughout **10.Archie THOMPSON – 7 –** Following contract signing, he looked a constant threat throughout
11.NEY FABIANO – 5 – Set-up an early chance for Allsopp before his ill-disciplined send off
12.Rodrigo VARGAS – 7 – Proved again why he is one of the leading defenders in Australia
14.Billy CELESKI – 7 – Deputised well for absent Costa Rican Lopez in holding role
16.Carlos HERNANDEZ - 6 – Rarely looked a threat, but linked well with Thompson and Allsopp
19.Evan BERGER – 8 – Best on ground performance from youngster Substitutes
8.Grant BREBNER 70' – 6 – Seems to be making steps towards regaining full fitness
4.Steven PACE 90+2' – N/A

PLAYER RATINGS - JETS

20.Eugene GALEKOVIC – 7 – Made a number of saves, with the Muscat block the highlight
2.Robert CORNTHWAITE – 6 – Seemed rarely troubled throughout match 4.Angelo **COSTANZO – 6 –** Was solid, but didn't have the usual impact
7.Lucas PANTELIS – 7 – Busy early, he drifted out of the contest late 9.Paul **AGOSTINO – 5 –** Disappointing performance from aging star
10.CRISTIANO – 6 – Did not influence contest as heavily as expected
13.Travis DODD – 5 – Horrible day for Dodd, who missed a number of headed chances
14.Scott JAMIESON – 6 – Performed well down the left flank, delivering a dangerous crosses
15.Jonas SALLEY – 6 – Struggled to contain Hernandez throughout match
19.Sasa OGNENOVSKI – 6 – Clumsy foul led to penalty
24.Paul REID – 7 – United's best, he dictated the tempo of the match in second half Substitutes
22.DIEGO 69' – 6 – Added a bit of a spark off the bench
16.Daniel MULLEN 90' – N/A
18.Fabian BARBIERO 90+1' – N/A

By Simon Chiarelli in Melbourne

Photos by John Punshon, Geoff Jones

World of Soccer Tournament 1977

SUPERSTARS AND SIDEBURNS

When Celtic, Red Star and Arsenal Came to Town

The year 1977 saw the start of the National Soccer League in Australia but it also had one of the most keenly contested tournaments in the history of the game in this country when the Socceroos took on the might of Red Star Belgrade, Arsenal and Celtic, in a competition billed as the 'World of Soccer'.

It was a fair-dinkum tournament, taken very seriously by most participants, though Malcolm 'Supermac' MacDonald and Alan Hudson were sent home by Arsenal manager Terry Neill for insubordination and drinking, charges which MacDonald denied. The win was worth $36,000 (£27,720), plus the clubs' guarantees, something not to be sneezed at in those days. The crowds for these matches dwarfed the attendances at the Philips League, as the NSL was called in its first years. Those were the days when visiting teams drew large numbers of recent migrants, particularly those from the British Isles, who were not devotees of the local game.

The Socceroos opened with a three-one win over Arsenal at the Sydney Showgrounds. The Australian team included Allan Maher, George Harris, Col Bennett, Peter Wilson, Harry Williams, Jim Rooney, Dave Harding, Murray Barnes, who was replaced by Peter Stone after 76 minutes and John Nyskohus, for whom Peter Sharne substituted in 72 minutes, Peter Ollerton and John Kosmina. Kosmina, Harding and Ollerton scored for Australia. Jim Shoulder, the very recently appointed Australian coach, was in charge. The Arsenal side was a full strength one with Jimmy Rimmer in goal, Pat Rice, Sammy Nelson, Richie Powling, replaced by David O'Leary, Willie Young, Liam Brady, Alan Hudson, Malcolm MacDonald, Frank Stapleton, and George Armstrong who got the Arsenal goal.

Also on Thursday 20 July 1977, Celtic and Red Star drew one-all before 21,000 at Olympic Park.

The Celtic versus Arsenal game on Sunday 24 July 1977 was played at the Sydney Cricket Ground with the pitch turned east-west instead of north-south 'for the first time in memory'. 'People in the Members' stand who do not pay anything to get into the ground will have the less favourable head-on view of the match.' The match was attended by the Governor, Roden Cutler, and the Premier of New South Wales, Neville Wran. Expecting 30,000, the match drew 21,460, mainly Celtic supporters, and Celtic beat Arsenal three-two with two goals by Paul Wilson and one by Ronnie Glavin from the spot. Danny McGrain was described by reporter Brian Curran as 'the best full-back ever to come to Australia'.

On Tuesday 26 July, Celtic had a hard-fought three-two win over the Socceroos, this time at the Sydney Sports Ground. Celtic fielded Peter Latchford, Danny McGrain Tommy Burns, Pat Stanton, Roddy McDonald, Roy Aitken, Paul Wilson, Alfie Conn, Ronnie Glavin, Johannes Edvaldsson, and Johnny Doyle. 'Big Shuggie' Edvaldsson got two goals and Paul Wilson one. For a midweek match the crowd was a very respectable 12,742 and Celtic manager, Jock Stein, said the Socceroos stretched us. 'We don't want another one like that too soon.' Though he was substituted before the end, Australia's best player was a Scot, Jimmy Rooney, who had been with the Socceroos on their only World Cup appearance to date in West Germany in 1974. Murray Barnes and Peter Ollerton scored Australia's goals.

In Australia's final game it went down narrowly to Red Star at Olympic Park on 28 July with a slightly different team. Jack Reilly, George Harris, Peter Wilson, Col Bennett, Harry Williams, Dave Harding, Murray Barnes, Jim Rooney, John Kosmina, Peter Ollerton (Peter Sharne 72), and John Nyskohus were in the line-up. Kosmina and Harding scored for the Socceroos and Savic, Sestic and Filipovic for Red Star whose full team consisted of Alexsander Stojanovic, Nikola Jovanovic, Zoran Jelikic, Slavoljub Muslin, Mile Novkovic (Milos Sestic 46), Dusan Nikolic, Vladislav Bogicevic, Sead Susic (Bosko Lukic 84), Vladimir Petrovic, Zoran Filipovic, Dusan Savic

Celtic went on to beat Red Star in the final at Olympic Park on Sunday 31 July, by two goals to nil scored by Roddy McDonald and 'Shuggie' Edvaldsson. Jock Stein got a mention for abusing a television commentator who had forecast a Red Star win. That game drew about 22,000 or 23,000 depending on which version of Laurie Schwab's match report you prefer to read. At the time of the tournament the price of Soccer Action rose from 40 cents to 50 cents. Talk about value for money!

Acknowledgement: Once again I am indebted to the contributors to the Ozfootball website for some of the information used here.

Words by Roy Hay

Photos sourced by Roy Hay

Red Star skipper Vladislave Bogicevic celebrates Zoran Filipovic's winner against the Socceroos. The Australians are Peter Wilson, Harry Williams and Col Bennett. Source: Laurie Schwab, The Socceroos and their opponents.

Zoran Filipovic of Red Star shoots past Danny McGrain of Celtic at Olympic Park. Source: Laurie Schwab, The Socceroos and their opponents.

Tommy Burns of Celtic shields the ball against Red Star Belgrade during the World of Soccer tournament at Olympic Park, Melbourne.
Source: Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

John Kosmina and Peter Wilson in action for the Socceroos against Red Star at Olympic Park. Source: Laurie Schwab, The Socceroos and their opponents.front page.

Gas bagging, News & Views

BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric

Australia came away from Tashkent with all three points, defeating the inferior potassium-producing nation that is Uzbekistan 1-0 in a World Cup Qualifier. Two wins in a week for the Socceroos, not even the "assistance" of Graham Arnold on the bench can hold Pim Verbeek down.

The agent of an American sporting legend has been in contact with several A-League clubs in the last few days. He heard that in the current climate his client, Mark Spitz, may be hot property.

Is that John Aloisi playing upfront for Sydney FC these days, or David Zdrilic? I can't really tell the difference at the moment.

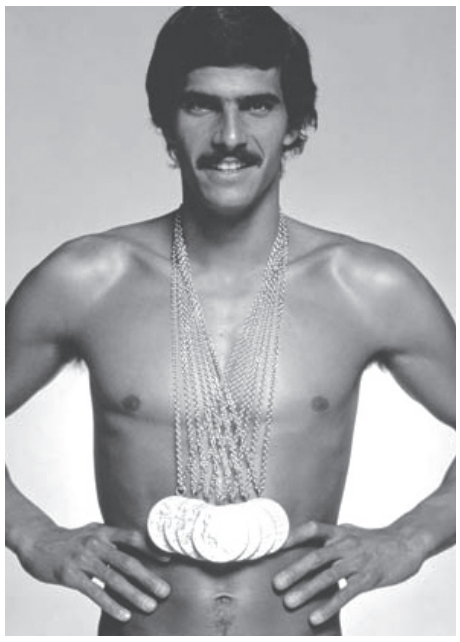
The WPL is being reduced to ten teams, with no teams being promoted from the Women's State League Division One. Which is a great way of bringing someone's Championship celebrations to a halt.

If The Wiggles ever need a new member I'd suggest Paul Bentvelzen from Football Stars of Tomorrow would fit in well with his over the top cheerfulness. The show also features highlights from the NSW Premier League and the legendary Andy Paschalidis.

With a couple of cases recently of FFV Life Memberships being handed back in, I thought I'd check out the FFV website to see how many Life Members it had. Sadly, I could find no such information. Ironically, the website featured a section on something called the Volunteer Recognition Program.

The Summer League is being brought in because Rob Baan figured our junior development is being stifled by the players not getting enough games. Therefore it is puzzling that so many games in the state's current top competition for juniors, the Foxtel Cup Under 21's, were unplayed at season's end.

Is the Northern Terrace at Melbourne Victory dead? If yes, who killed it? A banner unveiled on Friday stated "FFA killing active support since 2008". Which isn't really a long time, is it? Good to see the FFA can get jobs done quickly.



Spitting Image? Fabiano tries to tell the ref which way his grot was intended. Not to be confused with Mark Spitz of Bayern Munich fame.

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TWO FAMILIES, ONE SPORT: THE RADOJEVICS AND THE DORRISES AND SOCCER IN GEELONG

Mention the story of the round ball code in Geelong and it will not be long before the names of the Radojevic and Dorris families will crop up.

Both have had an enormous influence on the game and those who have played it and their family histories are closely bound up in the game and with each other. Their origins could not be more different. Joe Radojevic escaped from post-war Yugoslavia as a Croatian opponent of the regime and made his way to Australia via Italy under an assumed name. Billy Dorris, senior, first came from Scotland on the assisted package migration scheme, though you had better not call him 'a ten-pound Pom'. He went home again and came back once more under his own steam. Both got jobs in the expanding building industry in post-war Geelong and both became heavily involved in the trade union movement. They sometimes found themselves locked in disputes over employment issues, but at others formed a united front in defence of working conditions.

But it was their passion for soccer which brought them together most often, Joe with the fledgling Croatia club and Billy with Geelong Scottish. In those days many Croatian and Scottish migrants found employment at Fords, International Harvester and the firms which supplied them. The Geelong Croatia club regularly proved too strong for its Melbourne counterpart, which sometimes struggled to field a team. So in 1957 Joe brought the club to Geelong and it played at Corio Oval until 1960. For the next few years there were splits in the soccer representation of the Croatian community and in 1967 Joe and his brother Vinko (along with Mrko Hrkac, Ivan Sesar and Aldo Siketa) helped form the North Geelong club, which plays in Division Two of the State League in 2008. As he tells it, the foundation of the club was not driven by Croatian nationalism or politics, but so that his son, Joe, could play. But young Joe was also highly skilled at Australian rules and became one of the greatest full forwards in the history of the Geelong West club. On the other hand, Joe's younger son, Eddie, and Vinko's son, Steve, were regulars in the North Geelong team for many years. Steve also went on to coach North Geelong and Geelong Rangers. Eddie's son, Michael, is now playing for the club.

Billy Dorris had four brothers, two of whom died tragically in a road accident, and he was a boxer as well as a soccer player, referee and administrator. Ranked 8th in Australia at one point, he remembers the boxing skills being useful when things got heated on the field. On one occasion he was in charge of a particularly volatile match involving Croatia. Seeing the respective forwards pawing the ground before the kick-off, he told them to have their fight first, then he would start the football. He helped Geelong Scottish develop a new ground from scratch and in 1967 it began playing as Hamlyn Rangers. Now it is in Division Three and appears as Geelong Rangers. His sons, Billy junior, and Eddie, were juniors at Rangers and all three later moved to Bell Park, where Eddie is senior coach in 2008. Illness prevented Billy, junior, (now deceased) from fulfilling his ambitions on the field, but he became an exceptional coach and facilitator. He helped a generation of youngsters to make a start in the game and coached local and state representative teams, the latter in the national talent identification scheme. Eddie was a sound, reliable defender for Rangers and Bell Park, and has also been a superb coach. He and his brother and his father have all been recognised as Geelong Soccer Personalities of the Year, a unique tribute to their contributions. One of Billy's grandsons, John Ugrin, also played soccer for Bell Park, and another, Jimmy Henderson is currently playing at Rangers. The next generation of grandchildren are being introduced to the round ball game while still toddlers.

Joe Radojevic. Photo: Roy Hay.

Billy Dorris, senior, presents a junior trophy to Joey Didulica. Photo: Roy Hay.

Football relations between Billy Dorris, senior, and Joe Radojevic were not always smooth. They would often find themselves in opposition with their clubs and on one occasion Billy took Geelong Scottish to Preston Croat to find Joe at the gate demanding entry money from those on the team bus. Billy refused to pay and threatened to take the bus back to Geelong before Joe relented. But at other times the two would often be on the local committees that governed the game and just as often pulled together for the benefit of the sport.

Joe's daughter Mary was caught up in the soccer world from a very early age, helping her father with the club activities and migrant players to find their feet in the new environment. She married Luka Didulica and their two sons, John and Joey have gone on the peak of the game nationally and internationally. John played for Melbourne Knights and Sydney United in the National Soccer League until a series of knee injuries forced his retirement. He became Chief Executive Officer of the professional footballers' association and is now the Legal Officer for the Football Federation of Australia, and is on the FIFA disputes panel. He has just been honoured with life membership of the APFA. Joey, a goalkeeper, also played for North Geelong and the Knights, before heading to Dutch giant Ajax, FC Austria in Vienna and now AZ Alkmaar back in Holland. Desperate to play for Australia he was overlooked by coach Frank Farina, and eventually was persuaded to represent Croatia. He was part of the squad which took part in the World Cup in Germany in 2006, though he did not get on the field in the match against Australia.

So two families and one sport intertwined at local and national level and still carrying on a tradition begun by two migrants from Europe who arrived with little more than the clothes they were wearing in the 1950s. Joe and Billy, senior, still meet at the TAB and occasionally swap yarns about their activities on and off the field and the exploits of the younger generation of which they are both fiercely proud.

By Roy Hay

Photos by Roy Hay

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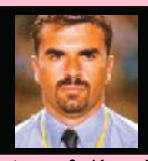

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AGIUS NODS ZEBRAS THROUGH TO GRAND FINAL

A 68th minute header by Adelaide City's Freddy Agius was enough to secure a 1-0 win over Campbelltown City and give the mighty Black and Whites a Grand Final berth in the 2008 Devine Homes Final 5 Series and the 2008 Super League Premiership. The lone goal of the match came from a Jace Cummins corner that sailed past midfielder Nick Budin and striker Johnathon Negus but bounced perfectly at head height for Agius to nod the ball past Campbelltown's keeper Edward Scalzi and into the back of the net.

In what were unseasonably hot and energy zapping conditions, the game at Adelaide City Park Oakden started with both teams playing a somewhat tentative start to the game, neither side wanting to make any mistakes. The Red Devils challenged City in the early stages of the match, 2008 and triple Sergio Melta Medal winner Simon Catanzaro playing with his heart and soul, many times trying to penetrate the back line of Paul Pezos, Kristian Rees and Keegan Nash but without success. At the 28th minute mark a corner kick went tantalizingly close to being put away for the first goal of the match, as Adelaide City's Kristian Rees rose up to meet it but placed it wide of the far post. Two minutes later Paul Pezos shot from a free kick about 40 metres out, taking a chance on the swirling wind to do the work not being too far away as the ball skimmed above the woodwork. At the 35th minute mark a chance for the Red Devils to take the lead was denied as Catanzaro took a wide free kick, Jason Trimboli getting a head onto it popping the ball into the box but City keeper Ben Moore punching it out to Cummins who cleared it away. By the half time mark of the match, stats showed six shots at goal by Adelaide City and only one by the Red Devils, a stat they were desperate to turn around in the second half kicking with the breeze.

Adelaide City's defence stood strong in the second stanza, Campbelltown finding it hard to get past the duo of Kristian Rees and Paul Pezos clearing away any ball that looked threatening. A flying shot by Red Devil Jason Trimboli in the 50th minute of the match almost found its mark, after he received a great through ball from Nathan Fleetwood that

Adelaide City's Freddy Agius nods in the only goal of the match sending his side to the 2008 Grand Final

came very close to City keeper Ben Moore. The game was played in very good spirit, only one yellow card in the match going to Campbelltown's Josh Christison for a low penetrating tackle on Nick Budin. The small men of City now stood tall with David Paladino, Evan Gooding and Freddy Agius all finding spurts of speed and agility to create chances for the Black and Whites. In the 68th minute it all paid off for Agius when he got on the end of a perfect height ball from a Jace Cummins corner kick, knocking it to the left of Scalzi and in for the first goal of the match. The goal jolted the Red Devils into upping their intensity, but any attacking advance was quickly shut down by City's strong defence. Damian Mori substituted Cummins in the 72nd minute for his young gun Patrick DeRuvo to inject some extra leg speed up front, impacting immediately with a shot on goal. With fifteen minutes to go, a scare for the Red Devils as Catanzaro went down after a head high clash with Agius, eventually getting up after treatment on his jaw and re-joining the game. De Ruvo again had a chance to get City's second with ten minutes remainding, but Scalzi again making a great save to deny that chance. Campbelltown were now in overdrive, peppering the goals in desperation to try to get the equaliser and keep their finals hopes alive. In the dying stages spectators watched as Catanzaro, Trimboli and Signoriello all had shots at goal, making Mori pace up and down the sideline . At the 92nd minute mark, the Red Devils took three corners within about one minute all coming dangerously close to scoring if not for the super keeping skills of Ben Moore and the great defence of Adelaide City. As referee Paul Centrangelo blew his whistle to mark the end of the match, it was a very much relieved Damian Mori that celebrated his side earning a spot in the Grand Final. Football fans now look forward to the Friday night Grand Final clash between MetroStars and Adelaide City at Hindmarsh Stadium kick off 7:30pm to see who will take out the Super League Premiership for 2008.

By Nat Adamopoulos

Photo by Adam Butler

FFSA RESULTS

DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE FINAL 5 SERIES

Preliminary Final
Adelaide City 1 (F.Agius)
Campbelltown City 0 (HT 0-0)
Best – Adel City (D.Paladino, F.Agius, P.Pezos) Campbelltown (M.D'Aloisio, S.Catanzaro, E.Scalzi)

TOP 5 CHALLENGE – PREMIER LEAGUE
Western Strikers 2 (S.McNeil, S.Stefanopoulos)
Adelaide Cobras 1 (R.Calabria)
(HT 1-1)
Best – Strikers (C.McNichol, J.Ciarla, D.Lastella) Cobras (M.Staltari, O.Totani, R.Calabria)

TOP 5 CHALLENGE – STATE LEAGUE
West Adelaide 6 (A.Mehicic 2, C.Robinson, D.Reynolds, J.Spatharos, J.Tsianos)
SA Sports Institute 0 (HT 2-0)
Best – West Adel (A.Mehicic, D.Reynolds, P.Kakavas) SASI (N.Farrell, F.Monterosso, J.Costa)

FOOTBALL WEST STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sorrento FC	21	14	4	3	57	30	27	46
Floreat Athena	21	13	3	5	44	26	18	42
Perth	21	12	4	5	46	33	13	40
Inglewood Utd	21	10	4	7	36	34	2	34
Mandurah City	21	9	6	6	54	38	16	33
Stirling Lions	21	9	5	7	40	28	12	32
Swan I.C.	21	8	3	10	41	45	-4	27
Cockburn City	21	7	5	9	43	53	-10	26
West Knights	21	7	3	11	34	49	-15	24
ECU Joondalup	21	6	4	11	46	48	-2	22
Armadale SC	21	6	4	11	31	51	-20	22
Fremantle SC	21	0	5	16	23	60	-37	5

RESULTS - Round 21

Armadale 4(Robinson35'Faria57'70'Madeley83') Western Knights 0
Fremantle Spirit 0 Stirling Lions 1(OG12')
Inglewood United 0 Swan IC 3(Ando66'p,Cocking73'p,75')
Sorrento 2 (Harnwell6'Neville78')
Mandurah City 0
Cockburn City 4(Dos Santos44'Kamasz54'OG57'Lilly78) ECU Joondalup 4(Collins50'Amphlett62'McMurray70'Blackmore88')
Floreat Athena 3(Niederburger50'Bachiller84'Scott88')
Perth SC 1(Kay65')

TETLOW TO LEAD STATE AMATEUR SIDE

Football West is pleased to announce that Mike Tetlow has been appointed as the men's State Amateur coach until December 2009.

Tetlow, from Secret Harbour, has had a decorated career in Western Australian football, having coached at local clubs including Stirling Lions, Rockingham City, Mandurah City and Fremantle City as well as with WA State development squads in 2001 and 2005.

"I am really looking forward to the challenge ahead" said newly appointed State Amateur men's coach Mike Tetlow.

"It's always an honour to represent your state as a coach or player and I am delighted to have received the opportunity" Mr Tetlow added.

"I hope the players who end up pulling on the WA shirt will do so with pride as they will be representing thousands of local players, supporters and officials from our Amateur game".

Football West State Education and Development Manager Andrew Bettell said Tetlow had beaten a field of high calibre applicants.

"It has been a difficult selection process, however Mike has a wealth of experience in the local game and will represent an independent view of the amateur competitions that we will be sourcing players from" said Mr Bettell.

"We are pleased that Mike has accepted the position and look forward to working closely with him to help set up the State Amateur program after its lengthy absence".

Football West in conjunction with Mr Tetlow will now begin the process of consulting with clubs in selecting a preliminary squad of players from which the state amateur side will be selected.

An announcement will be made in due course in regards to the appointment of support staff.

NORTH THRASH SOUTH IN INTRASTATE SERIES UPSET

The Northern Tasmania Premier League representative side scored a shock 4-0 away win over their Southern Tasmania counterparts in the first leg of the intrastate series at KGV Park on Saturday.

North did not have their first-choice team because of player unavailability, whereas South had a very strong side - on paper at least.

It was the North's work-rate, perseverance and team work that made the difference.

The South played as individuals and, by the time coach Eamonn Kelly made changes, it was too late and the visitors were leading 3-0 with just a quarter of the game remaining.

The introduction of Aaron Brazendale with just 17 minutes remaining added a spark to the South attack, but they were already 3-0 down by that stage.

Billy Gasparinatos, the leading striker for league champions South Hobart, was used in midfield and he gave the ball away far too often.

English striker Daniel White received very poor service in what was only his second game in Tasmania since arriving from the UK.

He may have played a leading role in securing the Tasmanian premiership last weekend for South Hobart by scoring twice and making a third goal against Devonport City, but his inclusion in the southern representative team was asking too much.

He hardly knew his South Hobart team-mates last weekend, so most of his team-mates in this southern side must have been almost complete strangers.

A goalkeeping error by Nathan Pitchford cost the South the lead in the 41st minute. He fumbled an ordinary shot by Todd Hingston and allowed the ball to roll over the line.

South had had chances through Igor, twice, and Ricky Self. Igor put one wind-assisted lob onto the top of the bar, while a header from Jonathon Ladic's free-kick scraped a post.

Seven minutes after the interval, Igor landed a corner on the Northern crossbar, but the visitors counter-attacked immediately and Bobby Eaves scraped the face of South's bar with a cross from the left.

In the 59th minute, Eaves made it 2-0 from close range when he was left unmarked inside the box following a long throw-in from the right by Mark Ambrose.

Five minutes later, Paul Scicluna added the North's third, snapping up the chance created by Sean Howe's low cross from left which left Pitchford and team-mate Liam Scott tangled up on the ground.

A minute into stoppage time, North brought on substitute goalkeeper Joe Simons in the outfield and he netted their fourth with his first touch after Scicluna's short pass had found him free on the left.

The return leg is next Saturday at Launceston's Windsor Park.

New Town Eagles ensured their Premier League survival when they thrashed Division One champions Hobart United 6-1 in the second leg of the promotion/relegation play-off at KGV Park on Friday night.

Eagles had won the first leg 5-1 to make it 11-2 on aggregate.

Damien O'Brian, Eagles' weekly fly-in from Victoria, celebrated his final match for the club before returning to Brunswick by assuming the captaincy for this match and scoring a hat-trick.

Goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford got his name on the scoresheet with an amazing goal from a free-kick taken from just inside his own penalty area. The wind helped to carry the ball deep into the opposing half and it bounced over United keeper Nathan Grandin and into the net.

Alex Leszczynski, who had earlier struck the crossbar, also scored, as did the busy and effective Adam McKeown.

Record Breakers: South Hobart adds the Tasmanian Premiership to its astonishing haul of trophies this season

FOOTBALL FEDERATION TASMANIA

By Walter Pless

Photos by Walter Pless

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Every Saturday C31 10.30am

World Game
Football Show
88.6 FM Plenty Valley
11am Every Saturday

FOXTEL

EPL

Sat Sep 20 **Sunderland v Middlesbrough**
9.40 pm Fox Sports 2
Sat Sep 20 **Liverpool v Stoke**
11.55 pm Fox Sports 2
Sat Sep 20 **Blackburn v Fulham**
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Sep 20 **West Ham v Newcastle**
11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sun Sep 21 **Bolton v Arsenal**
2.25 am Fox Sports 2
Sun Sep 21 **West Brom v Aston Villa**
8.55 pm Fox Sports 1
Sun Sep 21 **Chelsea v Manchester United**
10.55 pm Fox Sports 1

Asian Champions League
Wed Sep 17 Kashima v Adelaide, 8.00 pm LIVE
Wed Sep 24 Adelaide v Kashima, 7.30 pm LIVE

SBS

UEFA Champions League
Wednesday 17 September 2008
4:30AM Chelsea v Bordeaux - LIVE
7:00AM Barcelona v Sporting

Thursday 18 September 2008
4:30AM Manchester United v Villarreal - LIVE
7:00AM Juventus v Zenit St.Petersburg

SETANTA

Tuesday 16th September
0:00 MUTV – EPL Liverpool vs Man Utd
4:30am Setanta Sports Cup LIVE Drogheda vs Derry
7pm Football Matters

Wednesday 17th September
0:00 Chelsea TV – EPL Man City vs Chelsea
2:00 UEFA Cup LIVE Nordsjaelland vs Olympiacos
8:30pm Barca TV – La Liga Barcelona vs Racing

Thursday 18th September
10:45am Copa Sudamericana LIVE Palmerias vs Vasco

Friday 19th September
3:30am UEFA Cup LIVE Besiktas vs Metalist
12:30pm UEFA Cup Nancy vs Motherwell
2:15pm Barca TV – UEFA Champions League Barcelona vs Sporting
4pm MUTV – UEFA Champions League Man Utd vs Villareal
8:45pm Celtic TV – UEFA Champions League Celtic vs Aalborg
11:30pm Chelsea TV – UEFA Champions League Chelsea vs Bordeaux

Saturday 20th September
Football
4am Bundesliga LIVE Leverkusen vs Hannover
7pm I'm on Setanta Sports
7:05pm Friday Football Show
8:30pm SPL LIVE Aberdeen vs Dundee Utd
11:30am Bundesliga LIVE Bayern Munich vs Weder Bremen

Sunday 21st September
2pm Ligue 1 Nice vs Le Mans
8:30pm Eredivisie LIVE Feyenoord vs Ajax

Monday 22nd September
3am SPL Kilmarnock vs Celtic
5am Ligue 1 LIVE Marseille vs Monaco

Viewer's Choice

1995 was a turning point in television broadcasting of football in Australia when SBS, the pioneers of the world game, started to televise regular live European national team and EPL matches

It was a forerunner to the massive coverage provided by Foxtel and since last year Setanta Sports, which has fulfilled the football dreams of supporters so they no longer have to experience the discrimination which was the practice of the free to air channels.

There is now round the clock coverage as exemplified last Thursday morning.

At 12.00 p.m I tuned to Setanta Sports for the World Cup qualifier between Russia and Wales played at Moscow in atrocious conditions, with a severely depleted Welsh side unable to match the brilliance of the Russians who showed much of the attacking flair they produced at Euro.

At 1.30 p.m., I switched to Fox Sports for Uzbekistan versus Australia and the late news that Jason Culina had withdrawn from the match seemed to put a scare through the Aussie camp.

However, Jacob Burns his replacement was simply magnificent playing a holding role in midfield next to the ever improving Carl Valeri.

Having closely followed his early career in the NSL with Sydney United and Parramatta Power before he ventured overseas after the Sydney Olympics, I am surprised he has not figured more prominently in the national team.

Jacob Burns

Burns excellent two sided technique gives him more time on the ball and there is no reason he shouldn't be retained in the starting lineup against Quatar in Brisbane on October 15th.

The selection of Scott Chipperfield ahead of David Carney was a big plus as he is so confident going forward and his defensive abilities are unquestioned.

If only he had a right side we would be calling him Australia's Maldini.

Meanwhile, Carney is having a disappointing season at Sheffield United and once again was not even amongst the substitutes in his team's match against Derby on Saturday.

Isn't it about time Pim Verbeek gave Matthew Kemp a chance to prove himself at the higher level as he is currently the best two footed wing back in the A-League.

At 4.30 a.m. Croatia played England on Setanta Sports and proved that the English team under Fabio Capello has made enormous strides.

The movement off the ball and the support of players on the ball was a joy to witness and the glorious display by Theo Walcott made me eat my words about his selection ahead of Jermaine Defoe for the 2006 World Cup.

By 7.00 a.m., I was feeling a little tired but yes there were still all those South American qualifiers during the morning.

Oh how football has changed over the fifty years I have supported it.

I am indeed in football heaven!

By Roger Sleeman

BILL TURNER CUP REACHES CLIMAX

With a long and proud history the Bill Turner Cup -- 29 finals to date -- is best described as the FA Cup of high school football. A long running knockout tournament for 15-and-under players from schools of the eastern states of Australia.

Last Wednesday (10th September) saw Westfields Sports High and Illawarra Sports High play out the 30th Bill Turner Cup finale with Illawarra victorious by 1-0.

Former Socceroo and English Premier League legend Mark Bosnich climbed to the top of the world game summit. It has been well documented he took a tumble to the base some years back. Right now he is again climbing another summit, this time one of self redemption from his demons.

Bosnich returned from England to trial with the Central Coast Mariners prior to the A-League pre-season, he won a five match guest stint in Gosford.

The man known as Bozza will be a special guest at the Bill Turner Cup finale.

Mark Bosnich has fond memories of playing in the Bill Turner Cup.

"A really close game, I think it was one-one, it went to a penalty shoot out.

"I saved one and then scored one … it put us through … a great memory."

Bosnich was speaking of the 1987 tournament and the round of 16-match against Canterbury Boys High, a win on penalties, at Marconi Stadium.

Liverpool High, without Bosnich, went on to beat Epping Boys High 4-2 in the quarter-finals.

Kogarah High ended Liverpool's run, 2-1, in the semi-final. Kogarah then beat Umina High 1-0 in the 1987 Bill Turner Cup final.

Bosnich congradulates Illawarra Sports High captain Jason Jankuloski

BILL TURNER HONOURS

Bill Turner Cup (Boys)

Final
Illawarra Sports High [NSW] 1 (Chris SIDONI 7m) beat Westfields Sports High [NSW] 0.

Third Place Play-off
Cavendish Road State High [QLD] 2 (Travis BERR 30m, Sam OWEN 33m) beat Whitebridge High [Northern NSW] 0.

Austcraft Medals Star Player of the Tournament:
Tomislav CIRJAK – Westfields Sports High

Bill Turner Trophy (Girls)

Final
Westfields Sports High [NSW] 2 (Candance SCIBERRAS 62m penalty, Alanna KENNEDY 63m golden goal) beat Hunter Sports High [Northern NSW] 1 [Tara ANDREWS 17m penalty)

Third Place Play-off
Cavendish Road State High [QLD] 2 (Charlotte BOYES 43m, Courtney HOLMWOOD 46m) beat Illawarra Sports High [NSW] 1 (Emily MATTHEWS 8m).

Austcraft Medals Star Player of the Tournament:
Hannah BREWER – Hunter Sports High [Northern NSW]

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Top Footy Totty Dept.

Amanda Harrington Age:27
Significant other: Newcastle United midfielder, Joey Barton

Helen Svedin Age:32
Significant other: Portugal's right winger, Luis Figo

Raica Oliveira Age:24
Significant other: AC Milan and Brazil striker, Ronaldo

Pamela Camassa Age:23
Significant other: AS Roma midfielder, Alberto Aquilani

Alex Curran Age:25
Significant other: Liverpool and England striker, Steve Gerrard

Carly Zucker Age:23
Significant other: Chelsea and England winger, Joe Cole

Sheree Kewell Age:23
Significant other: Galatsaray and Socceroo striker, Harry Kewell

By Nic Townsend

HAMMER TIME FOR ZOLA

Europe 2008/09: Chelsea, Man U and Motherwell

Champions League Group stage kicks off this week, and the UEFA Cup starts to heat up with the addition of some higher profile clubs. As usually England's big four are firmly entrenched into the group stage. Celtic have also made it for the third season running, although this time they were spared the hassle of qualification. No less then five English clubs will be playing in the UEFA Cup: Everton, Aston Villa, Manchester City, Portsmouth and Tottenham. And finally there is Motherwell: Britain's least fancied representative in Europe.

The Steelmen will travel to France on Thursday night to play a daunting match against Nancy, although they did received some help from an unlikely source. Celtic allowed manager Mark McGhee to use their scouting network and facilities to obtain tapes of the French outfit, allowing them the opportunity to know what they'll be facing. Considering the vast differences in budgets between the two clubs, it was a noble gesture by Celtic to help a fellow Scottish club on the big European stage. Although it could also be argued that is in Celtic's interests to see Motherwell progress in Europe. After all Celtic were rewarded direct qualification to the group stages because of Scotland's increased UEFA co-efficient; UEFA's complex way of working out how many spots each league should have in European competitions. Ironically Rangers' success in last season's UEFA Cup would have been a big contributing factor. After the Gers failure to qualify for the Champions League this season, and Queen of the South's elimination from the UEFA Cup, Celtic and Well remain as the only Scottish clubs left in Europe. If they get knocked out in the first round, expect Scotland's co-efficient to get a minor battering and next season Celtic won't get such an easy ride.

Zola back in London

Gianfranco Zola made a long awaited move back to London this week but this time he'll be working in the East, instead of the West. The former Chelsea legend signed a three-year contract to manage West Ham. Adding to the old school 90s era Chelsea theme, they're also likely to sign Zola's former team-mate Steve Clarke as assistant coach although at the time of writing Chelsea were doing their best to block it.

Former Chelsea player Gianfranco Zola poses after receiving the Order of the British Empire in Rome, 2004.

While undoubtedly a brilliant player, still highly regarded at Stanford Bridge today, Zola remains an unknown entity as a manager. To date his only experience has been with the Italy under 21s side and he hasn't got a UEFA Pro licence. But the West Ham board were no doubt seduced by Zola's charisma, style and reputation as a player. When will people learn, great players don't necessarily make great managers.

Trouble in The Toon

At least the transition between managers has been smooth at West Ham, which is more than what can be said of Newcastle. Kevin Keegan's departure has angered so many supporters that owner Mike Ashley has not only had to stop sitting amongst the fans at matches, but can't even watch from the corporate boxes. The angry reaction has even forced him to beg Keegan to come back but having now failed it is rumoured he'll be trying to sell the club and move on. Although such has been the extent of the turmoil at The Toon that the most likely buyer, Indian billionaire Anil Ambani, has also been put off and is focusing his attentions on Everton instead.

One of the men being linked to the Newcastle job, alongside Guy Poyet and Didier Dechamps, is Paul Ince. Common sense would suggest this is absurd considering he has only just signed for Blackburn and the only success he can currently boast has been in League Two. Nor would it necessarily be a great career move for Ince considering it has been a few years now since Newcastle have finished higher than Blackburn. But if he does get offered the job it wouldn't be the first time common sense has lost out in British football. It would also add to what has already been a remarkably rapid rise through the ranks: Two years ago Ince was trying to save Macclesfield Town from being relegated to the Conference.

Kevin Keegan has decided he doesn't want to play to Mike Ashley's tune anymore

Champions League - Match Day 1

Tuesday 16 September

Chelsea v Bordeaux, Roma v CFR, Panathinaikos v Internazionale, Bremen v Anorthosis, Basel v Shakhtar, Barcelona v Sporting, PSV v Atlético, Marseille v Liverpool

Wednesday 17 September

Man. United v Villarreal, Celtic v AaB, Steaua Bucureşti v Bayern, Lyon v Fiorentina, Porto v Fenerbahçe, Dynamo Kyiv v Arsenal, Juventus v Zenit , Real Madrid v BATE

Gossip and Transfer Speculation from the English Media...

Ethiopia Kicked Out Of Cup

Ethiopia were kicked out of the World Cup by FIFA on Friday after the long-running power struggle within the game in the African nation failed to be resolved.

FIFA, the sport's world governing body, said that all four matches played by Ethiopia to date in African zone Group 8, as well as the results of those matches, are now cancelled.

The group now comprises three teams - Morocco, Mauritania and Rwanda. Ethiopia had won two matches in the group and had garnered six points.

"The FIFA Emergency Committee suspended the EFF on 29 July 2008 due to the non-compliance of the EFF with the roadmap agreed in February 2008 by FIFA, the African Football Confederation (CAF) and the EFF in order to normalise the situation of the federation."

Sir Alex Dismisses City

Sir Alex Ferguson has dismissed the threat posed to Manchester United by newly-wealthy Manchester City and ridiculed their ambitions to sign Cristiano Ronaldo as "absurd."

City have emerged as the world's richest club since being bought out by the Abu Dhabi United Group earlier this month and they flexed their financial muscle by landing Brazilian striker Robinho in a 32-million-pound (57 million dollars) deal with Real Madrid.

"But what you see of Manchester United today is not an overnight situation. This club has been built up over many years now. It is not going to be here for today -- we'll be here for a long time no matter where the challenges come from -- we'll still be there.

"Yes, we've bought big players, but I don't think you can see a cash cow from Manchester United in a way that could happen in other areas, the way that some clubs are talking at the moment."I disregard it really because it is all talk at the moment. We've seen it before and it will happen again.

Clarke Jumps From Bridge

Luiz Felipe Scolari has suffered his first major setback as Chelsea manager after amitting defeat in his battle to keep long-serving club servant Steve Clarke on his coaching staff.

Clarke, who who has been at Chelsea for over 20 years as player and coach, resigned on Friday because he wants to team up with his former Stamford Bridge team-mate Gianfranco Zola, who was appointed as West Ham's new manager on Thursday.

Chelsea were officially refusing to release the former Scotland defender but Scolari made it clear he was resigned to losing a coach he relied on for insights into his squad and English football in general.

"Now I have been told he is going I am sad but I understand Steve," Scolari told reporters.

No Rush On Timmy

Struggling Everton will not rush influential Australian midfielder Tim Cahill back into action, the English Premier League club's manager David Moyes said.

Cahill hasn't played since March because of a broken foot and has missed the start of the new season as well as Australia's opening World Cup qualifier in Uzbekistan in midweek.

The 28-year-old Cahill has returned to full training, but no date has yet been set for his return to the first team.

"Tim has started training again and we are glad to have him back with us," said Moyes.

"He looks really sharp and fit and he's obviously looked after himself during the time he was out. I don't know when he'll be available again but he's coming along nicely just now. The one thing we won't do, though, is take any risks with him."

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